MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 DECEMBER 1980

Iran Domestic Affairs

Defense Budget Increase--AFP, citing the newspaper ISLAMIC REVOLUTION, reported that the Iranian Government has asked the Majlis for an increase of $300 million in the defense budget to cover the callup of reservists and an extra $40 million to pay for the Interior Ministry's paramilitary police.

New Banknotes--In a statement reported by Tehran radio, Central Bank Governor 'Ali Reza Nobari announced that beginning 6 December, the Central Bank will distribute new 500-rial banknotes to ease the currency shortage and that the Melli Bank has been given permission to issue promissory banknotes in denominations of 10,000 rials that can be used like any other banknotes. The statement said the Central Bank has worked "round the clock" to solve the currency shortage and that the next delivery of banknotes will arrive in Iran sometime "next week."

Iran Foreign Affairs

According to Tehran radio, Central Bank Governor Nobari met with the Soviet ambassador to Iran on 3 December. The soviet ambassador offered to buy oil and natural gas from Iran "to facilitate a monetary exchange," but the Central Bank governor criticized the Soviet Union's unwillingness to pay Iran's asking price for natural gas. The radio added that the Soviet envoy hopes for further talks on this matter as well as talk on future investments. For his part, Nobari asked the Soviet official to facilitate monetary clearance procedures and to allow Iran access to a transit route to Europe, which was approved. Earlier reports indicated intense concern among Iranian officials over monetary matters, including liquidity problems related to the financing of the war and hasty withdrawals of money from the banks by Iranian people concerned about the war.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Tehran radio reported "hand-to-hand fighting" in the western part of Susangerd, previously proclaimed secure by Iranian forces. The radio said three Iraqi helicopters penetrated across the Abadan-Mahshahr highway and that one was downed and the others driven back by Iranian antiaircraft fire. An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by INA, reported that Iranian Air Force planes raided As-Sulaymaniyah, Maysan and Irbil and hit targets in Panjwin and Mosul. The communique claimed Iraqi ground fire shot down one plane.

Syrian-Jordanian Relations

AFP reported on 4 December that "diplomatic sources" in Amman, citing eyewitnesses, said Syrian heavy artillery units and personnel carriers withdrew from the Jordanian border during the previous night, heading for Damascus. SPA reported previously a statement by Saudi Second Deputy Prime Minister Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad had promised to withdraw his forces from the border with Jordan. Commenting on this pledge, Jordanian Information Minister 'Adnan Abu'Awdah told PETRA-JNA that Jordan will wait until "we see the last Syrian soldier withdrawing" to normal positions to believe it.

According to Damascus radio, Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad said "there is no doubt" Jordan "has learned the necessary lessons" from the military buildup and other steps. The minister added that "we are now convinced" Jordan "will take into consideration all that has happened in any future action."

The Syrian newspaper TISHRIN, in a commentary reported by Damascus radio, continued to attack King Husayn's regime for resurrecting the idea of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation and expressing willingness to cooperate with the new U.S. administration. In another commentary on 5 December, reported by Damascus radio, TISHRIN said that if the Syrian military moves make Jordan consider various facts and "learn lessons for the future, then what happened was necessary and beneficial" but it remains to be seen just how much Jordan has learned. The newspaper added that "Syria cannot overlook or remain silent" about Jordanian involvement in conspiracies against it or its disavowal of the Palestinian issue. AL-AKHBAR, reviewed by Amman radio, said that Jordan wants Arab relations to be "strong and firm" and that Syria and Jordan need to be partners to face Israel. AL-AKHBAR welcomed "the good offices" of Saudi Arabia in its attempts to "remove the tension on the border as a result of the massive Syrian buildup."

Syria

Damascus radio reported the arrival of Libyan Secretary of Foreign Affairs 'Ali as-Salam at-Turayki on 4 December with a message to President al-Asad from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The Libyan official met with the Syrian president, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and head of the Libyan Relations Office 'Abd as-Salam ibn Khayyal, the radio said. In a statement at the airport before his departure, also carried by Damascus radio, At-Turayki said the message he delivered from the Libyan leader dealt with the proposed union between the two countries and the latest developments in the international situation. Calling his talks in Damascus "positive and constructive," the Libyan secretary of foreign affairs said the two countries' leaders will meet soon "to achieve unity."

Israel

Tel Aviv IDF radio reported that the high court of justice has recommended that the mayors of Hebron and Halhul, Fahd al-Qawasimah and Muhammad Milhim, should be given a period of probation before they are expelled. The radio said the high court urged that the "political echelon reconsider the date for the expulsion because views heard during the court hearing and the possibility that the deportation would only aggravate matters." Commenting on the decision, the Voice of Palestine radio said observers "expect the popular uprising to escalate" in the wake of the court's decision.

Egyptian-Israeli Relations

Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali discussed further steps toward normalization of relations between their two countries in a meeting in Paris on 4 December. In remarks after the meeting reported by AFP, Dr Ghali characterized the talks as "extremely positive" and said the Israeli foreign minister "perfectly comprehended" the need for "a new political atmosphere and a climate of confidence" to convince the Palestinians to participate in the autonomy talks. The Egyptian official said the tripartite talks among Israel, Egypt and the United States will be held in abeyance until President-elect Ronald Reagan names a new U.S. representative to the talks.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir said the two sides agreed on ways to improve relations while difficulties still hindering normalization would be discussed at future meetings. He added that he is convinced of the "necessity of accelerating the autonomy negotiations." The two officials disagreed over the EC proposal for a Middle East settlement but the Egyptian minister of state said that Europe "could play a major role" in influencing public opinion in the United States and Israel in favor of a general peace settlement.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT WARNS OF STRIKE AGAINST PLO IN LEBANON

NC301210 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 30 Nov 80

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, and in the presence of brother Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member; brother Col Abu Fawwaz, commander of the military college and Fatah Revolutionary Council member; and brother Lt Col Abu Humayd, member of the General Mobilization Committee, a celebration was held yesterday on the 21st anniversary of the General Federation of Palestinian Students.

In a speech at the ceremony brother Abu 'Ammar said: Brothers of the executive and administrative bodies, brother heroic fedayeen students, there is nothing more splendid than our gathering today to celebrate, unlike previous celebrations, our great status now, not only at the Palestinian and Arab levels but also at the international level.

Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar said: We realize that we are surrounded by U.S. bases in Oman, Somalia and Kenya and by fleets in nearby seas.

Abu 'Ammar warned of grave events that the area will witness in the next few days saying: We must understand that grave events will occur in the next few days. This is no secret. You remember when I mentioned the accordion plot in which he would have to confront the enemy in the north and south and in Ad-Damur and Beirut. I am expecting serious trouble. I say to you that the enemy's plans are known.

Brother Abu 'Ammar added: We are expecting a strike in Lebanon against the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese nationalist movement and the Syrian forces stationed here. However, we will not be defeated.

PLO OFFICIAL URGES EC TO MAINTAIN PEACE INITIATIVE

LD021235 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Nov 80 p 2

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT report: "Ar-Ramlawi Calls on European Countries Not To Abandon Their Peace Initiative"]

[Text] London--PLO representative in London Nabil ar-Ramlawi has urged Britain and the other EEC countries not to deviate from the peace initiative concerning the Palestine problem under pressure from the incoming Reagan administration. The PLO representative was speaking at the British House of Commons on the occasion of UN day for solidarity with the Palestinian people, which officially takes place on Saturday 29 November. Reagan's policies would lead to an outbreak of a new major war in the Middle East, Ar-Ramlawi said.

He added: I have just returned from Beirut, where I had a series of discussions with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Inspired by these discussions, I would address my remarks to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington.

If I may paraphrase Lord Nelson's famous words "Palestine expects that England will do its duty." The PLO not only remains convinced that the EC countries and Britain in particular are responsible for solving the Palestine problem, but we also expect the EC and Britain in particular to do so through a positive and brave initiative whose aim is to reach a solution based on the Palestinian people's legitimate rights as they have been recognized by the UN General Assembly.

Ar-Ramlawi added: The PLO believes that through respecting these rights it will be possible to establish justice and peace in Palestine. The General Assembly has defined our right in three basic points: 1--the Palestinian people's right to return to their homes; 2--the Palestinian people's right to determine their future and establish an independent sovereign state secure against foreign intervention; and 3--the Palestinian people's right to be represented in international arenas by the PLO in its capacity as their sole legitimate representative.

The PLO representative continued: The whole Arab nation and the Palestinian people in particular will judge the European countries on the basis of their attitude to these three points. Let me stress here that we urge Britain and the EEC not to deviate or be diverted from their initiative on Palestine because of the election of Reagan as U.S. president. Although the new U.S. administration still has to clarify its policies on the Palestine problem, signs reflected by Reagan's remarks so far are not encouraging, either for the Palestinians or indeed for the whole world community.

Ar-Ramlawi added: Reagan described the PLO as a terrorist organization. We reject this description and would point out that Lord Carrington himself firmly rejected this when it was brought up by the Zionists in Britain. We can assume from Reagan's statements that his administration will not recognize any role for the PLO in the efforts aimed at reaching a settlement to the Palestine problem.

Should the United States succeed in persuading the EC to abandon its recognition of the PLO and to end the relations established during the past year, there is no escaping the admission that the options available to the PLO and to the Palestinian people as a whole are limited.

We are not seeking conflict and bloodshed but, if all other options are denied to us, the Palestinian people will have no alternative but to place all their resources in the service of a prolonged liberation war. There is no doubt that the results of bloodshed and killing are evident to all and indeed tragic as well. The responsibility falls on Mr Reagan and others who accept the U.S. stand.

Ar-Ramlawi said: We have no doubt that, when Israel attacks the Palestinians, it will also attack the Syrian forces, in which case a new major war will break out in the Middle East. We should have no doubts about the political and economic effects resulting from such war on Europe, North America, and the whole industrialized world.

PFLP LEADER CONDEMNS HUSAYN FOR 'ATTACK' ON ARABS

JN042222 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] Beirut--Bassam Abu Sharif, PFLP Political Bureau member, has stated that King Husayn's regret over the PLO's nonparticipation in the Amman summit was an attempt to deceive the Arab masses and to conceal his desperate attempts to cancel the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people. He added that the king's designs were manifested in his attack on the Arab countries that did not support Saddam's aggressive war against Iran.

In an exclusive statement to the SANA correspondent in Beirut, Abu Sharif said: The plan complementing Camp David, for which King Husayn paved the way and whose ideas the king is discussing not only with the EEC partners but with the U.S. administration as well, is summed up in the king's refusal of the Palestinian state and of the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people. The King is doing this because he was informed that the Camp David partners and the EEC states reject the PLO.

The Palestinian official explained that, accordingly, the Jordanian regime launched a violent diplomatic campaign to pave the way for it's joining of the settlement ring, but from a different window from that through which As-Sadat entered.

Bassam Abu Sharif pointed out that the Jordanian regime has managed to reach an agreement with certain European sides and with the U.S. administration. This agreement provides for the proposal of a new political plan that does not conflict with Camp David, but complements it.

He said that King Husayn pursued vicious methods in bypassing the sole representation of the Palestinian people when he re-erected his bridges with his agents in the occupied land and reinstalled himself as the one responsible for supervising affairs inside the occupied land, despite the PLO's approval of his partnership in supporting the steadfastness inside the occupied territories, a matter in which the PLO was, regrettably, decieved.

He said that the Jordanian regime paved the way for this matter by establishing broad reactionary alliances. This made it imperative that it aggravate its relations with Syria and the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front states, in implementation of the instructions of its masters in Washington and in return for its future freedom in political moves, given that this regime is an acceptable party for Zionism and imperialism to negotiate with on the future of the West Bank and to confront the Palestinian revolution and the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front states, particularly Syria, in order to divert it from confronting the real threat represented in Zionism.

Abu Sharif asserted that the Jordanian regime has joined the ranks of the enemies and is ready to enter a war against Syria and the Palestinian revolution. This war represents an extension of Saddam's war against Iran.

PALESTINIANS PLANT BOMBS IN JERUSALEM 4 DEC

NC041718 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] Israel's savage aggression against southern Lebanon and its suppressive and arbitrary measures against the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories cannot either achieve its aims regarding the so-called preventive war or foil the masses' uprising against occupation. The Palestinian people intend to stand up to occupation and its suppressive practices because their liberation aspirations will not be deterred by anything until victory is achieved.

In retaliation against the enemy's actions, its suppressive measures and its racist-fascist practices, the hero-martyr First Lt (Muhammad Shihadah) today planted timebombs on King George Street in occupied Jerusalem.

At 1230 the bombs exploded, causing a loud roar that was heard throughout the area. Enemy passers-by panicked and rushed to the shelters. Large police and security forces closed off King George Street and the streets adjoining it to traffic.

The bombs resulted in a large number of enemy casualties while many shops sustained heavy damages.

Police and security forces arrested scores of Palestinian citizens for interrogation while our revolutionaries returned safely to base.

SYMPOSIUM IN PARIS DISCUSSES JERUSALEM ISSUE

LD040957 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Dec 80 pp 1,2

[Yunis Muhammad Ishaw report: "Paris Symposium on Jerusalem: Bouabid, Chatti, Al-Hasan, and Ash-Shak'ah Stress Liberation of Holy City"]

[Excerpts] Paris--The international symposium on Jerusalem organized by the General Secretariat of the Islamic Conference opened here yesterday. Moroccan Prime Minister Maata Bouabid opened the symposium on behalf of King Hassan II. On this occasion he delivered a speech in which he conveyed King Hassan's greetings, in his capacity as chairman of the committee on Jerusalem, to the members participating in the symposium. He expressed the hope that this meeting will be the beginning of objective work and said: Jerusalem is the symbol of the meeting of Islam with other holy religions and the cradle of many civilizations.

He said that in view of the special position of the holy city of Jerusalem the Islamic Conference decided to set up a permanent committee called the committee on Jerusalem under the chairmanship of King Hassan II in order to defend the city's position and preserve its character, and also to make every effort to return it to Arab sovereignty and to its previous distinctive position as an example of coexistence among peoples and a meeting point of civilizations.

Speaking on this occasion, Habib Chatti [general secretary of the Islamic Conference Organization] thanked President Valery Giscard d'Estaing for the interest he shows in the just Palestinian cause and his welcome of the convening of this symposium on his country's territory. Chatti said that the problem of Jerusalem is a serious world problem today in view of the tension over it, which could explode at any time with consequences that nobody can predict.

Chatti stressed the need to resume efforts at this juncture at an international level in order to solve the Palestinian problem. He said that the U.S. administration will find itself compelled to take an initiative in the Middle East and that the European community, which is trying to regain its position in the international arena, is at this very moment discussing the subject at the Luxembourg summit, where it intends to take an initiative. We hope that this initiative will be effective in producing a solution of the Palestinian problem, without which the Middle East problem cannot be solved.

He was followed by PLO representative Khalid al-Hasan who spoke about the real dimensions of the problem of Jerusalem within the context of the situation.

He was followed by Bassam ash-Shak'ah [mayor of Nabulus] who was received with loud applause. He made a speech in which he discussed Zionism's daily practices aimed at obliterating the Palestinian identity and the Palestinian people's endurance in struggle for the sake of confirming their cultural presence.

He said: I appeal to people everywhere to seek to stop this crime against all the Palestinian people. Israel is continuing to implement its decisions and to ingore the UN resolutions because it is confident that all such resolutions are rendered ineffective by the United States. What is happening in Jerusalem is happening throughout the occupied Arab territories.

The symposium is attended by a large number of Arab, Islamic, and Western thinkers and leading personalities and businessmen from the Arab and Islamic countries.

The symposium is being held in the UNESCO conference hall in Paris.

ISLAMIC CONFERENCE LEADER ON EEC MIDEAST STATEMENT

NC041922 Paris AFP in English 1912 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] Paris, 4 Dec (AFP)--Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti said here today that he regarded as "positive" the declaration of the European Economic Community (EEC) earlier this week in Luxembourg on the Middle East.

However, Mr Chatti added, the statement did not represent much of an advance on the declaration of the summer EEC summit session at Venice.

Mr Chatti is in Paris for a seminar on Islam that was organized by the Islamic Conference.

The EEC declaration at Luxembourg was important, he said, because "Europe had renewed the expression of its willingness to continue its efforts to achieve a solution in the Middle East."

Mr Chatti noted that the EEC had already recognized the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. The next step, he added, was for Europe to "recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the principle of the creation of a Palestinian state."

Because of the recent presidential elections, he said, the United States has been unable to engage in a dialogue on the problem. "We hope that a dialogue will soon begin," he observed.

Mr Chatti added that it was now obvious that the Camp David process "was dead." He said that the incoming Ronald Reagan administration was certain to take a realistic look at the Middle East and modify the rasher promises of the campaign period.

The Islamic Conference chief said that the mediation of Saudi Arabia in the dispute between Jordan and Syria appeared to be making progress and that he expected the conflict to be settled without intervention by the conference.

He added that Moslem religious leaders were organizing a meeting in Saudi Arabia to study ways of resolving the Iraqi-Iranian war.

Mr Chatti also said that conference efforts to negotiate a settlement of the Afghanistan crisis had made little progress because "the Soviet Union is refusing all dialogue, direct or indirect."

He insisted that the Islamic Conference would not recognize the Afghan regime in Kabul unless Soviet troops were unconditionally withdrawn.

KUWAIT

CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR BAGHDAD

LD030736 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0717 GMT 3 Dec 80

[Text] Kuwait, 3 Dec (KUNA)--Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca left here today by land for Baghdad to continue his shuttle trips between Iraq and Iran in an effort to put a halt to the fighting between the two countries.

Malmierca spent last night here after he arrived in Kuwait from [name indistinct] at the end of the third visit he has made since the breakout of hostilities in the Gulf last September. The Cuban minister is undertaking a peace mission, which until now has produced no positive results.

SAUDI ARABIA

INTERIOR MINISTER COMMENTS ON GULF SECURITY

GF301145 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 26 Nov 80 p 1

[Excerpt] Kuwait--Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has stressed that the security of Kuwait and every other Arab Gulf state is indivisible from Saudi security. In an exclusive statement to AL-BAYAN, he declared: We shall not allow this security to be threatened or undermined.

Prince Nayif added: During my visit to Kuwait I conveyed a verbal message from King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad and a similar message from Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah. Both messages stress that the security of any regional state is indivisible from the security of another state--and not only in one aspect but in all aspects.

The Saudi interior minister lauded the cooperation between Saudi Arabia and the Arab Gulf states. He declared: This cooperation is unlimited; it is unrestricted in all fields.

In answer to a question Prince Nayif said that his talks with Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad are part of the regular and continuing discussions between officials of the two fraternal countries with the purpose of serving their common interests.

Prince Nayif said that there was full agreement in their assessment of the situation in the area. He said: We feel that the security of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are one. I stressed this to Kuwaiti officials, who reciprocated the sentiment.

Asked about recent reports that consultations are underway among the countries of the area to proclaim a Gulf security charter, Prince Nayif said: There are plans for achieving Gulf security which, God willing, will become agreements soon. Saudi Arabi is trying to have a unified agreement on Gulf security. He said that bilateral security agreements may be signed by the countries of the region--agreements that will lead to a unified agreement among the Arab Gulf countries.

Prince Nayif did not rule out the possibility of convening a summit any time to discuss issues of interest. He added: All services in the countries of the region, and especially the security services, are constantly consulting and coordinating among themselves. We are seeking objective studies of the region's security. Naturally, these studies will result in meetings of the region's interior ministers to discuss these matters.

NO IRAN REQUEST RECEIVED FOR GULF, SAUDI MEDIATION

LD031155 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 30 Nov 80 p 1

['Abdallah ash-Shahri report: "Sa'ud al-Faysal to AL-JAZIRAH: 'Iran Has Not Requested Formation of Gulf Committee to End War With Iraq'"]

[Text] Dhahran--Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has told AL-JAZIRAH that Iran has not asked for the formation of a committee of Gulf Arab states and the Saudi Kingdom to prepare for a dialogue between Iran and Iraq to end the war between them.

His royal highness was thus replying to a question by AL-JAZIRAH as to whether it is true, according to what has been reiterated recently, that contacts have occurred between Iran and the Gulf Arab states and the Saudi Kingdom for the formation of this committee in order to start a dialogue between Baghdad and Tehran to end the war.

SUDANESE DEFENSE MINISTERS MEET LEADERSHIP

King Khalid Reception

GF011943 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Dec 80

[Text] His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received Lt Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, Sudanese first vice president and minister of defense, who is currently visiting the country, at his majesty's palace in Al-Ma'dhar at 1815 today. Present at the meeting were Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and national guard commander; Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the governor of the Riyadh District; Dr Rashad Fir'awn, special adviser to the king; and Shaykh 'Uthman al-Humayd, assistant minister of defense and aviation.

Defense Minister Meeting

LD011106 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0950 GMT 1 Dec 80

[Text] Riyadh, 1 December (SPA)--His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation, received at noon today Lt Gen 'Abd al-Majid Khalil, Sudanese deputy prime minister and minister of defense. The meeting was attended by 'Uthman al-Humayd, assistant to the Minister of Defense and Staff Gen Muhammad al-Hammad, chief of the general staff.

Lt Gen 'Abd al-Majid Khalil arrived at Riyadh at 1030 today from Jidda, where he had been received at the airport by his Royal Highness Prince Sultan, Shaykh 'Uthman al-Humayd, and Staff Gen Muhammad al-Hammad and a number of senior officials at the Defense Ministry.

Departure 2 Dec

LD021346 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1110 GMT 2 Dec 80

[Excerpt] Jidda, 2 Dec (SPA)--Lt Gen 'Abd al-Majid Khalil, first vice president and defense minister of Sudan, left Jidda today after a visit to Saudi Arabia.

DJIBOUTI PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN JIDDA 2 DEC

GF 021900 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Dec 80

[Excerpt] The president of Djibouti, Hassan Gouled, arrived in Jidda this evening on a private visit to Saudi Arabia that will last several days. He will perform the little pilgrimage and visit the prophet's mosque.

OIL MINISTER PROMISES 'MODERATION' IN BALI

LD051111 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Dec 80 pp 1, 2

[Interview granted by Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani to (John Roysant) in Riyadh, published jointly with sister-publication English-language weekly SAUDI BUSINESS--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Will the Saudi Arabian Kingdom attend the OPEC meeting scheduled to be held in Bali next week? Are you personally opposed to holding this meeting at present like your colleague the UAE petroleum minister?

[Answer] I am not opposed to holding the meeting. I believe that we should attend it. I even believe that we should insist on holding the meeting. I feel from all the telephone calls which I have received from ministers that the meeting will be held. Tomorrow I will receive the Indonesian petroleum minister, who is coming from Jakarta, as well as other ministers. I believe that the meeting will take place.

[Question] Certain reports from Indonesia say that you intend to stay one day only at the meeting and that you want to concentrate discussion on prices. Is this true?

[Answer] I do not really think that I will stay more than one or two days, because there are not many topics on the agenda. This is as far as the first part of the question is concerned. As for the question of prices, the chances of achieving a unified price system are very slim because of the present situation. The situation now is much more difficult than what it was at the meeting in the Algerian capital last year. Therefore, I do not expect that we will reach an agreement on prices, and, consequently, we expect to leave Bali earlier than usual. This was to be expected in any case not because of the war between Iraq and Iran but because of the difficulties we face in trying to reach any agreement on prices.

[Question] Do you, therefore, prefer not to talk about the question of prices in Bali?

[Answer] No, we will talk about prices, indeed we could reach some general understanding about prices. I will not be surprised if we reach an agreement on that, rather, doing so will be something positive.

[Question] Do you believe that the countries of the international energy commission are reducing their oil stockpiles sufficiently quickly to avoid a sharp price hike?

[Answer] No, but I am not worried as I was before. They must reduce their stockpiles, for this is the natural thing to do during the winter. They must do the natural thing.

[Question] But the war creates an extraordinary situation. Is that not so?

[Answer] Yes, but it was an extraordinary situation to create a very high level of reserves. In fact this was something extraordinary, and therefore we have confronted an extraordinary situation with another extraordinary situation in order to balance things out.

[Question] How much damage has OPEC suffered because of the war? Can the long-term strategy which you and others have worked out be postponed indefinitely?

[Answer] I do not think that the war has affected OPEC but it has postponed the long-term strategy, although such delay is not to be counted in years. The strategy itself has been studied and most of its parts have been approved. What remained is only a small part, on which we could not agree unanimously and which was only approved by a majority. But in fact the strategy does not concern OPEC alone but the whole world. Therefore, OPEC as an organization has not suffered from the war, but equally the war has not improved its position. The world did not reap the benefits expected, had we completed our agreement on the long-term strategy.

[Question] Has the war changed your opposition to strategic stockpiling in the West and to the United States' continuing to fill strategic oil reserve tanks?

[Answer] We do not like to see an increase in demand when there is a shortfall. This is not an objection by the Saudis only but also by the consumers. Sometimes I wonder why the American newspapers speak only about Saudi objections to filling strategic reserves, and do not speak about the objections by the French, the Germans, the Canadians and the Japanese, which are even more important because it is the interests of those people that will suffer. When there is a shortfall in supplies and you increase demand, then you increase oil prices and our efforts to increase production are of no avail.

[Question] But are you opposed to the concept of stockpiling?

[Answer] It is not "stockpiling" that will help you as much as solving the real problem, by which I mean the Middle East crisis.

[Question] Will you oppose price increases in Bali?

[Answer] I believe that we should leave this matter until the Bali meeting takes place. All I can say is that our policy is a policy of moderation.

[Question] What about the kingdom's short-term plans? Will you continue your present high level of production indefinitely?

[Answer] Indefinitely? Certainly we will not do so. We will take a decision at the end of December which will apply to January.

[Question] That is, this will be on a monthly basis.

[Answer] Most probably.

[Question] There have been reports that recently the kingdom found difficulties in maintaining a production level exceeding 10 million barrels per day.

[Answer] This is not true.

[Question] Would you comment on recent reports that you are to leave the post of minister of petroleum and mineral affairs for another government post?

[Answer] I have been in this post for the past 17 years. Let us wait and see.

PDRY

'ALI NASIR DENOUNCES OPPONENTS OF UNITY EFFORTS

LD281820 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Nov 80 EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has stressed that 30 November 1967 marked a practical step toward the completion of national political and economic independence and the achievement of unity for the Yemeni people and territory.

In an interview with the North Yemen-based AL-AMAL, he pointed out that hostile forces are very concerned over the meeting of Yemeni nationalists within the scope of the Yemeni revolution. For this reason such forces will continue their hostility and conspiracies against the people, both secretly and openly. These forces will use any available means to obstruct the progress of the Yemeni revolution and plant obstacles in the way of all nationalists and honest people so as to present them from realizing the objective of the 26 September and 14 October revolutions and, above all, from building a unified Yemen.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad emphasized the eagerness of the southern part of the homeland and overcome all the difficulties facing the Yemen unity committees and said it will provide them with every kind of support to enable them carry out their mission in the desired manner.

He also emphasized that the southern part of the homeland has an unshakable faith in peaceful dialogue and brotherly cooperation between the leaderships of the two countries and said this will open new horizons for the furtherance of our people's struggle to restore the unity of the homeland. He pointed out that the experience of the Yemeni revolution has confirmed that without the unity and alliance of the nationalist and democratic forces, or the promotion of dialogue between them, they will always be exposed to the threat of enemy intrigues.

DEFENSE MINISTER PRAISES DEVELOPMENT OF NAVY

LD042028 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Dec 80 EA

[Text] Brother Col 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar, member of the Political Bureau and defense minister, has stressed the importance attached by the Yemeni Socialist Party and the government of the revolution to the naval forces, considering that they are a (?main) arm of the armed forces and one of the sources of their combat (?power). This was stated in a speech he made this morning at a military parade held on the occasion of the 9th anniversary of Naval Forces Day at Naval Forces Square.

We stated that the naval forces during the past few years have witnessed continuous development in all spheres and have changed from a force small in number and weak in [word indistinct] and training to a striking force equipped with the latest weapons, ships, boats and modern equipment. It has qualified naval cadres and is proficient in the skillful use of weapons. He added that such a development witnessed by the naval forces could not have reached its high standard were it not for the sincere assistance that has been and is being extended by the friendly Soviet Union.

The brother defense minister asked the officers, NCO's and privates of the naval forces to do more persistent work and apply practically resolutions of the party's extraordinary general congress--reinforce the leading role of the party and its own defensive capacity and implement combat training and political programs.

At the end of the parade, brother 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar distributed prizes and certificates of appreciation to the winning officers, NCO's and privates. He then visited the "fighting glory" gallery and the photographic exhibition. The brother defense minister also witnessed the graduation of the ninth group of recruits from the technical school. He also witnessed live firing at a naval target carried out by members of the coastal artillery.

PARTY DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR USSR, EUROPE, LEVANT

LD041610 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Dec 80 EA

[Excerpt] Brother Abu Bakr 'Abd ar-Razzaq Ba Dhib, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, left Aden at noon today leading a party delegation for Moscow, Prague, Damascus and Beirut. The aim of the visits is to develop party cooperation and exchange experiences between the YSP and the sisterly and friendly parties of these countries.

Brother Ba Dhib said on departure that the tour is being made in the context of bilateral relations linking the YSP and the CPSU in various spheres. During the tour appropriate ways of strengthening these relations, particularly in the party sphere, will be discussed.

He said the delegation will take the opportunity offered by the tour to discuss with the leaders of the CPSU various issues of concern to the two friendly countries and also developments in the Arab region with a view to reaching a common understanding of these developments.

He added that the delegation will discuss cooperation with the Czechoslovak Communist Party during its visit to Prague.

It will also deliver a verbal message from brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

It will hold meetings with the Lebanese nationalist movement in Beirut to discuss the latest developments in the Arab homeland.

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT ON PLF DELEGATION'S VISIT

LD271952 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Nov 80 EA

[Excerpt] A joint press statement was issued today on the visit by a delegation of the Palestinian Liberation Front [Ar-Jabhat at-Tahrir al-Filastiniyyah], led by brother Talat Yaqub, the front's secretary general, to Democratic Yemen, at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party, from 16 to 27 November.

The statement said that views were identical on issues raised during the delegation's meeting with the YSP leadership.

The Palestinian delegation also expressed great appreciation for the firm, principled stand being adopted by the party, government and people of Democratic Yemen in support of the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people and their armed revolution for the sake of their right to return to their homeland, to self-determination and to establish their independent state on their national soil under the leadership of the PLO--the only legitimate and representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

The leaderships of the YSP and the Palestinian Liberation Front expressed their pleasure at the present level of bilateral relations between them. They stressed the need to work for their development, to serve the causes of the joint struggle of the two brotherly Yemeni and Palestinian peoples against imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

PLF Departure

LD042006 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Excerpt] Brother Tala't Yaqub, secretary general of the Palestinian Liberation Front, has praised the positive and leading part played by the YSP and the Government of Democratic Yemen is backing the Palestinian revolution and all the Arab national liberation movements.

In a statement to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY today shortly before leaving Aden international airport after a visit of several days to Democratic Yemen, he said that during its visit the Palestinian delegation had held talks with brother leaders of the YSP and met brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee, chairman fo the Presidium of the People's Supreme Assembly and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

He said that the views exchanged on Palestinian, Arab and international issues and on the need to draw up joint programs to confront the vicious plots--represented by the stepping up of the imperialist attack against the Palestinian revolution, the nationalists movement in Lebanon and the states of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front--were in complete agreement.

YAR

PRESIDENT MEETS WITH FRG CHANCELLOR IN BONN

JN031354 San'a Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Dec 80

[Text] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, who is on a private visit to the FRG, met with FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in Bonn last night, Tuesday.

They discussed bilateral relations and ways of developing them as well as reviewing the situation in the Middle East and recent events in the region.

In the course of the conversation, the president affirmed that a solution to the Palestinian issue cannot be reached unless all occupied Arab territories are returned and a Palestinian state is established on Palestinian soil.

The president and Helmut Schmidt also reviewed the international situation. The president expressed his appreciation for the FRG's concern with the Palestinian issue.

The FRG chancellor expressed his happiness and his government's welcome of the visit to the FRG by the brother president. The chancellor praised the steps achieved by the YAR in the various fields of development and construction, affirming his government's concern with developing relations between the two friendly states, in order to promote development in the YAR.

GHALI COMMENTS ON REAGAN, CARTER, MIDEAST PEACE

NC050745 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that he does not believe that any change will occur in U.S. policy after President-elect Ronald Reagan takes office because there are permanent U.S. interests; presidencies are changed, but interests will remain.

On President Carter's role in the Middle East, Ghali said in an interview yesterday with French television, channel 2, that Carter helped us in the negotiations with Israel and with the conclusion of the Camp David accords.

On the possibility of Ronald Reagan being radical toward the Arabs, Ghali said: We must not take notice of statements made during presidential campaigns. What is important, eventually, are the deeds and (?texts) that are signed by the Americans, the Israelis and the Egyptians. Ghali said: Our aim in the tripartite negotiations is to establish the transitional rule of a Palestinian authority, and to put an end to the occupation of territory. Ghali further said that he and Shamir are agreed on the need to maintain the momentum and dynamism of peace.

Concerning Egypt's stand on Jerusalem Ghali, said our stand is very clear: We consider Arab Jerusalem as part of the West Bank. And in keeping with Resolution 242, Arab Jerusalem must be returned to the Arab world. There is no difference between our stand and the other Arab countries on this issue.

Regarding tension between Syria and Jordan, Ghali said: This tension worries us because we want to establish peace not only between Egypt and Israel. We envisage a comprehensive peace between Jordan and Israel and Syria and Israel. In order to achieve this, Arab conflicts must be ended.

REAGAN MESSAGE SENT TO U.S.-EGYPT BUSINESS COUNCIL

NC040828 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Excerpt] U.S. President-elect Ronald Reagan has stressed the need to continue improving trade relations between Egypt and the United States. He said economic development between the two countries will play an effective role in establishing peace in the Middle East.

In his message to the American-Egyptian Business Council, Reagan stressed that the new U.S. administration will cooperate with the U.S.-Egyptian Business Council in order to strengthen trade links and economic developments to the benefit of Cairo and Washington.

GHALI MEETS ISRAEL'S SHAMIR IN PARIS 4 DEC

NC041705 Paris AFP in English 1657 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] Paris, 4 Dec (AFP)--Egyptian Minister of State Butrus Ghali and Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir discussed further steps to normalize relations between their two countries at a one-hour meeting here today.

Following the meeting, Mr Ghali said that the talks had been "extremely positive." He added that he had discussed with Mr Shamir measures that could be taken to create "a new political atmosphere and a climate of confidence that could convince the Palestinian to participate in autonomy negotiations."

The Israeli foreign minister said that he and Mr Ghali had agreed on moves to improve relations between the two countries. He also said that he was convinced of the "necessity of accelerating the autonomy negotiations."

Mr Ghali said that in respect to the three-nation talks involving Israel, Egypt and the United States on the autonomy issue "it is necessary to wait until the new American administration is installed and a new U.S. representative to the talks has been named."

The Egyptian minister said that he had found that Mr Shamir "perfectly comprehended" the importance of measures to "create on the West Bank and at Gaza a climate of confidence, a new political atmosphere of a nature that will lead the Palestinians to join in the conversations on autonomy."

Mr Shamir added that those difficulties that still hindered normalization of relations would be further discussed in later meetings.

However, the two officials were not in agreement on European Economic Community (EEC) efforts to promote a Middle East settlement. Israel does not favor a European initiative.

Mr Ghali said that Egypt believed that Europe "could play a major role through a better understanding of the problem and, since it is particularly sensitive to a conflict in this region, it could influence public opinion in Israel and America to support a general peace in the Middle East."

The two ministers met at Mr Shamir's appartment in a Paris hotel.

VOL INTERVIEWS AL-BAZ ON U.S.-ARAB RELATIONS

NC050904 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 5 Dec 80

[VOL Washington correspondent 'Aziz Ra'd interview with Egyptian Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz during visit to Washington with Vice President Husni Mubarak--date not given--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] Can you sum up the purpose of your visit with the vice president to Washington and the outcome of this visit?

[Answer] The purpose of the visit was to hold contacts with President Carter and his advisers and to express the appreciation of President as-Sadat and Egypt over the steps taken by the U.S. administration to contribute to the achievement of a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem and to strengthen U.S.-Arab relations in general. The other purpose of the visit was to hold initial contacts with the new U.S. administration, particularly with Vice President George Bush, and some other figures from both the executive and legislative levels.

[Question] Dr al-Baz, what are your impressions of your meetings with officials in the new administration, such as George Bush and the other experts?

[Answer] Our impression is that the new administration will pay attention to the Middle East area, and that it is not true that the priority which the outgoing administration accorded to Middle Eastern affairs will change. We came out with the firm impression that the new administration will devote attention to this issue, and give it high priority. Of course, first priority will be given to the domestic economic situation because the U.S. voter complained and continues to complain about inflation, unemployment and some other pressing economic problems. But, in the foreign affairs sphere there is no doubt that two main issues will occupy the new administration. The first will be a review of the relations and balance with the Soviet Union. The second will be the Middle East issue.

[Question] What, in your view, will be the future of the Camp David process under the administration of U.S. President-elect Reagan?

[Answer] Of course, we did not hold any detailed discussion with any member of the new U.S. administration on this issue because this is premature, and they prefer not to go into details before the new administration takes office. However, one can predict and expect that the new administration will support the agreements already concluded and be open-minded regarding any changes or additions to them if it thinks that this will enhance the peace process. In other words, it will not turn its back on the Camp David agreements nor undertake any initiative which is considered as a substitute for Camp David, but will work through the Camp David framework and try to find out whether it is suitable as it is, or if there are some methods which can be applied to implement or achieve the same formula.

[Question] For some time there have been press reports that there is Egyptian apprehension lest the new U.S. administration divert its attention from the Camp David process and turn to Jordan as a substitute. Is it true that there is apprehension in this regard?

[Answer] No, it is not true. There is no apprehension on our part in this respect. First because there have been no signs in this direction, and second--and perhaps this is the important thing--because what is important to us is to achieve a solution to the problem and not adherance to this or that formula. We adhere to the Camp David formula because it is the only formula which can be implemented, while all the other formulas are either impossible to implement or mere words.

If at a certain point we find that there is another party which can bring the area closer to peace and stability, we shall not at all object because we are interested in the essence and aim and not appearance, method or means. There is talk about the Jordanian option. This was started by Israeli sources and not by U.S. sources. We know that the Labor Party in Israel is talking about the Jordanian option. When the Labor Party talks about the Jordanian option, it means territorial--it is talking about a territorial compromise.

[Question] Anyhow, Dr al-Baz, what in your opinion is the role which Jordan can play in the future during President Reagan's administration, given the fact that Reagan, during the election campaign, reiterated more than once his intention to turn to Jordan or to hold negotiations through Jordan?

[Answer] We support any strengthening of relations between the United States and any Arab state. What we want to draw attention to is that there is no alternative to Palestinian participation in the peace process. We do not want Jordan's participation in the peace process to prevent Palestinian participation. If we do this, the problem will not be solved. The problem will remain the same. The talk about Jordan as an alternative to the Palestinians, or the Palestinian entity, distorts and complicates the situation. We want Jordan to come in; we want the brother Palestinians to participate; we want all the other Arab sides--Lebanon and ultimately also Syria--to participate.

OPPOSITION LEADER INTERVIEWED ON AS-SADAT REGIME

LD041115 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 28 Nov 80 p 12

[Nazmi Yusuf interview in Madrid with Dr Hanna Milad, member of the Political Bureau of the Egyptian National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party: "Normalization of Relations with Israel Created the Coptic Problem"--date not given]

[Excerpts] When representatives of the Egyptian ruling party [National Democratic Party--NDP] arrived in Madrid in order to take part in the 15th congress of the international socialist parties, Dr Butrus Ghali, the ruling party representative, was surprised to find that Dr Hanna Milad was there too.

The reason for the surprise was that the ruling party and the security authorities had created obstacles which they thought would be sufficient to prevent Dr Milad, who is also chairman of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party [NPUG] Foreign Relations Committee, from traveling abroad. It was hoped that the NDP party, being the only party present, would be accepted as a member of the Socialist International but the hope soon turned into tragedy (for the party representatives) when the international organization turned down the Egyptian ruling party's application for membership not only because of the presence of the NPUG representative as well but also because of the arsenal of freedom-restricting laws enacted by this party, foremost of which is the law of ethics which the organization considered as a violation of human rights.

All this made me even more anxious to meet with Dr Hanna Milad who is a professor in construction at 'Ayn Shams University and who has published two books, one of which is on housing problems and is titled "I Want a House: A Problem With a Solution." It is one of the most important books that deals with the problems of housing in Egypt and in the Third World. The second book is "Copts, Yes, But Still Egyptian" in which he deals with the roots and reasons of the sectarian sedition in Egypt and which was published following As-Sadat's attack on the Egyptian Copts.

I told Dr Milad: The NPUG has well-known Arab stands. What is the party's role in the international arena, particularly with the Socialist International organization?

[Answer] The NPUG has fundamental ideological stands on the question of Arab nationalism. We believe in the inevitability of cooperation and joint Arab action in order to attain the "unity" that the Arab masses are demanding. Therefore, the party is seeking to take part in all international gatherings so that, through meetings, it can directly seek to explain the Arab cause to European public opinion. The Socialist International Bureau contacted us without any attempt on our part to contact it or to apply to attend and participate in the conference. The Socialist International organization invited us to attend their conference as observers and, of course, we welcomed the invitation. In Madrid we were surprised by a four-sided statement issued by Butrus Ghali in his capacity as representative of the ruling party, and by Willy Brandt, Kreisky, and Shim'on Peres. The statement was submitted as a proposal for a solution of the Middle East problem. The statement said nothing about the PLO and indeed constituted pressure on Jordan to enter into direct negotiations with Israel.

We held contacts with the Arab delegations attending the conference as well as with African, European, and Latin American delegations in order to assert the Palestinian people's right and the right of the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Therefore, you can see that the Socialist International forum is one of the important and basic forums in Europe for the presentation of Arab issues.

The next question I asked Dr Milad was whether Egyptian public opinion stands with the ruling party's policy or with the NPUG.

He replied: On 16 November 1977 our party issued a well-known statement appealing to President as-Sadat and cautioning him that his visit to Jerusalem would lead to a separate solution. At that time Egyptian public opinion agreed with the government's view that the initiative was the path to prosperity.

The government declared that As-Sadat's "initiative" will lead to reducing spending on armaments and the Army's budget and, consequently, this will bring prosperity to the people. In the light of that As-Sadat declared that prosperity will be achieved in 1980. But as the years went by everything has happened as we predicted on the basis of accurate political calculations in the area. Peace was not achieved; instead wars and conflicts broke out in various parts of the area indicating the possibility of greater explosions in other parts of the Middle East. Neither was prosperity achieved. On the contrary, the first months of this year saw inflation and price increases unprecedented in Egypt. The government, with its media and its monopoly of the television, is now trying to create the impression among the Egyptian public that prosperity will be coming in 2 years' time or so. But we again predict that prosperity will not come about unless the government changes its internal policy by trimming the claws of the rich class, abandons its foreign policy which is hostile to Arabism, and returns to the Arab fold.

Normalization Has Created Problem of Egyptian Copts

[Question] What about the problem of the Copts?

[Answer] The Copts in Egypt have no problem. The Egyptians have lived in total unity for 14 centuries. Religion used to be a personal matter. Recently the problem of the Copts surfaced as a reaction to the arousal of religious chauvinism which first began in Israel on the premise that Zionism, as a racist movement, advocates the distinct and special character of the Jewish people. This has encouraged other religious trends in the area; it has encouraged every minority and community, for racial, religious, or dogmatic reasons, to become clannish and to clash with one another. Arab reaction has encouraged such "clannishness" so as to fragment national Arab unity and pan-Arabism. In the early seventies, after President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir's death, the Coptic problem came to the surface. I would like to assert here that the consciousness of the Egyptian people, both Copts and Muslims, will thwart the attempts of those who are trying to sow sedition both within and outside Egypt.

[Question] The Egyptian NPUG party has been facing difficulties in expressing its views to the Egyptian public because of the policy of the suppression of freedoms. For how long, in your opinion, will this last?

[Answer] At the Socialist International conference in Madrid I have welcomed the presence of the Egyptian Government party's representatives so that they will have an on-the-spot view, through the presence of various party delegations at the conference, of how the multiplicity of parties and differences of views are the prinipal mainstay of the idea of socialist democracy which the Egyptian ruling party upholds in theory but not in practice. The NPUG has come under strong pressure and I expect it will come under greater pressure in the future. Every time the Egyptian Government comes under pressure from the toiling masses internally or from abroad because of its incorrect policy and its failures, it is automatically believed that these failures are the result of the NPUG's activities while in fact the failures of the Egyptian Government in all fields are the result of its own policies.

GENERAL COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUE NO 168

JN041826 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

The outcome of our armed forces' military operations in the various operational sectors last night and today is as follows:

A. Known enemy losses:

1. In personnel: 61 killed.
2. In equipment: Three guns, one of which is 122-mm, 3 armored personnel carriers, 13 vehicles of various types, 1 missile launcher and 4 small boats were destroyed. Four stock piles of supplies and one fuel tanker were destroyed and burned.

B. Our air force helicopters raided enemy concentrations on the Kut Moheysen-Khafajiyah [Susangerd] axis, inflicting the following losses: Three tanks, six armored personnel carriers, two vehicles, one antiaircraft gun and one steamshovel were destroyed. Our helicopters also raided enemy concentrations in the northern sector. All of our planes returned safely to the homeland.

C. Enemy planes raided civilian installations and residential areas today. Our ground defenses intercepted them, downing a number of them and forcing the rest to flee, as follows:

1. At 1010 enemy planes raided As-Sulaymaniyah Governorate, aiming at the (Bayyarah) civilian hospital. Two civilians were martyred and one child was wounded.
2. At 1020 enemy planes raided the village of Panjwin. Our ground defenses shot down one plane, which was seen falling inside Iranian territory.
3. At 1023 enemy planes raided Maysan Governorate.
4. At 1121 enemy planes raided Maysan Governorate. One civilian car was hit and one civilian was wounded.
5. At 1144 enemy planes raided Mosul.
6. At 1152 enemy planes raided Irbil.

D. Total enemy losses are as follows:

1. In personnel: 61 killed.
2. In equipment: One plane was shot down. Three tanks, 9 armored personnel carriers, 4 guns, 15 vehicles, 4 boats, 1 missile launcher and 1 steamshovel were destroyed.

E. Our losses:

1. In personnel: 10 martyrs.
2. In equipment: One gun and two vehicles were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 4 December 1980

REPORTS OF SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL PROMPT COMMENT

Information Minister

JN041500 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1453 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] Amman, 4 Dec (PETRA)--Commenting on news agencies' reports that Syria pledged to Saudi Second Deputy Prime Minister Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz that it will gradually withdraw its forces from the Syrian-Jordanain borders, Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah said: Our judgment on this report will be known when we see the last Syrian soldier withdrawing to the normal position in which he should be deployed. In a statement to the REUTER correspondent in Amman, the minister said: We trust what we see on the ground and what we can see of realities.

AR-RA'Y Editorial

JN050831 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Dec 80

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "Where Are They Going?" AR-RA'Y says: If the reports that the Damascus rulers have pledged to his highness the Saudi second deputy prime minister to gradually withdraw their forces deployed on the border with Jordan are true, it means they have pledged to return to reason. Nevertheless, implementation is the real test of correspondence between word and deed.

At any rate, returning these deployed troops to their positions confronting the Zionist enemy is a duty required by the dignity of Syria, not a favor with which it is pompously gracing Jordan, because deploying these forces on our border is a sin and redressing that sin does not mean Syria is being gracious or charitable toward anyone.

It would behoove the rulers of Damascus to comprehend that Jordan is determined to preserve its welfare and to defend every particle of its soil with all its strength because its welfare is security for the Arab depth and an ensurance against deviation of the cause. Jordan's welfare is a safety valve which prevents dragging the Arab arena into the whirlpool of external conflicts.

Ar-Ra'y adds: The welfare of our country is a protective fence, as all the Arabs know. This fact cannot be altered by all the falsifications and accusations perpetrated by the Damascus organs.

We clearly and frankly tell the rulers of Damascus that artifically provoking a conflict between the Jordanian and Syrian armies will be the military extension of the Camp David conspiracy, aiming at emptying the eastern front now that the western front has been emptied. This is a situation Jordan cannot possibly allow nor the Arab nation possibly forgive.

SYRIAN DEFENSE MINISTER REPORTEDLY ARRESTED

JN051719 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Dec 80 p 1

[Text] Damascus--Rumors circulated in the Syrian capital yesterday saying that the authorities have recently arrested Maj Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Syrian Armed Forces and defense minister, for his opposition to moving the Syrian forces from their positions along the confrontation line with Israel.

It has been reported that the Syrian authorities have carried out a large-scale campaign of arrests against opposition elements in Syria in the past few days.

BUTRUS DISCUSSES POSITION OF UN FORCES IN LEBANON

NC041941 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Dec

[Text] Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus has expressed his fear that the UN emergency forces may become incapable of carrying out any task if the present situation in the south continues. He said that Lebanon would adopt a different position when the time came to renew the UN forces' mandate. He added: We are studying the moves we may make to strengthen the UN forces and provide them with better means of implementing UN resolutions.

PRIME MINISTER AL-WAZZAN ON ISRAELI ATTACK

NC031330 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Dec 80

[3 December statement by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan on Israeli naval attack--read by announcer]

[Text] Israel's aggression is part of a specific plan whose objectives have become known to us and to the world. Whenever we reaffirm our denunciation of such attacks, we thereby make the picture clearer and clearer for the outside world so it can see for itself how much Lebanon is suffering and how much Israel persists in its aggressive designs disregarding the world community's call to stop the attacks, adhere to the UN resolutions and respect Lebanon's territorial integrity.

The recent Israeli aggression came in the wake of the meeting held recently in An-Naqurah [between representatives of the Israeli and Lebanese armies]. This meeting supposedly affirmed the need to respect Lebanon's internal border, as well as its interior.

AN-NABATIYAH AREA COMES UNDER FIRE 5 DECEMBER

NC050829 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Text] Cautious calm prevailed in southern Lebanon today while Israeli aircraft continued to make reconnaissance sorties over the area following the repeated Israeli aggressions.

According to reports from An-Nabatiyah, in the central sector of southern Lebanon, artillery shells fired from the southern border at around midnight last night fell in the suburbs of the town and in several neighboring villages. The shelling ceased at 0200 today; no casualties have been reported.

BORDER MILITIA, PALESTINIANS TRADE ARTILLERY FIRE

NC051031 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Text] A spokesman for the Free Lebanon Army in the eastern sector said that in reprisal for the Israeli defense army operations on the As-Sa'diyat-Ad-Damur road, saboteurs began shelling Marj 'Uyun with mortar and heavy artillery as of 2330 yesterday. Our artillery returned the fire, silencing its sources at about 0130 today. We sustained only material damage and the losses of the aggressors are not known.

INFORMATION MINISTER COMMENTS ON SAUDI MEDIATION

JN041635 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] Damascus--In reply to questions posed by journalists on the outcome of the Saudi mediation and on what Syria achieved through this mediation, Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad said: There is no doubt that the Jordanian regime has learned the necessary lessons from what has taken place to date, either from the military move or from others. We are now convinced that the Jordanian regime will take into consideration all that has happened in any future action. This might constitute what we wished to achieve.

DAMASCUS NOTES U.S. DECISION ON ARMS FOR JORDAN

JN042148 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] Washington--U.S. President Carter has made a final decision to speed up the delivery of weapons, ammunition and spare parts to Jordan. Monte Carlo Radio quotes well-informed sources in the U.S. capital as saying that huge C-141 planes will shortly begin to transport this U.S. materiel to Jordan.

PRESS EXPRESSES HOPE JORDAN HAS LEARNED 'LESSON'

JN050704 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 5 Dec 80

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial entitled "Our Masses Have the Will and Determination," the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH says: The people's voice rose high in Hamah yesterday, calling for the destruction of the criminal Muslim Brotherhood gang and the deterrence of King Husayn's regime, which imagined that through plotting and supporting the gang of saboteurs, it could harm our people, their struggle and their steadfastness, overlooking the history of this people, their revolutionary firmness and their unlimited ability to deal fatal blows to the enemies of their struggle and progress, who are necessarily the enemies of the Arab masses.

While liquidating the gangs of murder and sabotage, Syria seriously and firmly declared it would continue to hunt the conspirators and strike at their dens. Syria meant what it said. It will not allow anyone or any quarter to harm its national security. With the same force, it will not permit any plotting against the issue of Arab struggle, the issue of Palestine.

If our measures have put others in the picture regarding Syria's serious and firm stand--we specifically mean the Jordanian regime, which has supported the gangs of sabotage and provided them with bases and dens--and if this regime has learned the necessary lessons for any future action it might undertake, there are new lessons for those who do not want to understand. Syria's stand will continue to be that of the Arab masses, a guarantee for the liberation of the land, the wresting of rights and the defeat of conspirators.

In a commentary entitled "The Jordanian Regime and the Lessons Learned," the newspaper TISHRIN says. Despite the intensive propaganda campaigns launched by King Husayn's regime, supported by U.S. imperialism and Zionism, nobody can claim this regime has gained the support of even a minority of Jordan's masses for the acts it committed against the welfare and security of the Syrian citizens or for its participation in the imperialist-Zionist plot to crush Syria's opposition to the Camp David accords by transforming Jordan into a base and passageway for the gangs of murder, crime and treachery which imperialism and Zionism have recruited against the domestic front in Syria. Moreover, nobody can claim that King Husayn's regime was able to gain the support of the Jordanian people for its disavowal of the Palestinian issue and the PLO and its readiness to partake in the U.S. game to liquidate the Palestinian issue.

TISHRIN adds: Syria cannot overlook or remain silent about the stand of King Husayn's regime against it and this regime's involvement in supporting the conspiracy against it in favor of the imperialist and Zionist schemes. Syria--which has broken the back of the gangs of plotting, terrorism and assassination with its intrinsic power, its masses' sacrifices and its rallying around its leadership and which has repulsed the machinations of U.S. imperialism and Zionism--can punish those who are conspiring against it, protect its sons and citizens, defend the nation's pan-Arab issue and devote all its attention to the central battle against the Zionist and imperialist enemy.

Perhaps the past few days have made the Jordanian rulers discover anew some facts which they had overlooked or wanted to ignore or test, or some illusions which had beset them. If the military and other moves which took place contributed to making the Jordanian regime take some important facts into consideration and learn lessons for the future, then what happened was necessary and beneficial.

The future will tell how much the Jordanian regime will learn from the lessons gained. In turn, Syria will show the same firmness and determination it demonstrated in confronting all the conspiracies against it or against the pan-Arab issue and in seeking to devote all Arab energies and potentials for the pan-Arab battle against imperialism and Zionism.

JORDANIAN LABOR LEADER DENOUNCES HUSAYN'S REGIME

0041742 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Excerpts] Damascus--Brother Fathi an-Naji, president of the General Federation of Labor Unions in Jordan, granted an exclusive interview to Damascus radio at noon today in which he voiced the stands of the Jordanian working class and masses and spoke about the Jordanian regime's provocations against Syria and the PLO.

An-Naji stressed that the Jordanian people's support for Syria and the PLO against King Husayn's regime, its attempts to liquidate the Palestinian cause and its efforts harm Syria's steadfastness.

Brother an-Naji said: The campaign of provocation and escalation waged by the King's regime and its organs against Syria and the PLO is part of the black Camp David conspiracy. this campaign was initiated by King Husayn's regime with the opening of training camps for killers from the Muslim Brotherhood gang and was escalated when Syria and the PLO defeated King Husayn's attempt to liquidate the Palestinian people's cause, when he tried to wrest the role of the Palestinian people's representative from the PLO.

I reply to a question about the nature of the present dispute, Brother Fathi an-Naji said: The Syrian Arab people, the Jordanian Arab people and the Palestinian Arab people are one people, linked by a common fate and standing in the same trench for the liberation of Palestine and the occupied Arab territories. Brother An-Naji stressed that King Husayn is trying to deceive our people in Jordan by attempting to depict the struggle as being between Jordan and Syria. Brother an-Naji added: The purpose of this attempt is to circumvent the Algiers and Rabat summit resolutions, which acknowledged that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and stressed that no party can speak for or represent the PLO.

Brother an-Naji explained that King Husayn's regime is trying to strike at Syria's steadfastness, which supports the PLO. I is also trying to fabricate a struggle with Syria, in order to prepare for a rallying of the Camp David conspiracy, having failed to obtain the Amman summit's approval for this.

Brother an-Naji noted that King Husayn's conspiratorial moves and the troop concentrations on the Syrian borders took place in the wake of the triumph of U.S. President-elect Ronald Reagan, who has refused to recognize the PLO and has stated that he wishes to meet with King Husayn and to negotiate with him. Brother an-Naji stressed that the struggle is between our Syrian and Jordanian Arab masses on one hand and King Husayn's regime and its imperialist and Zionist allies on the other.

In reply to a question about the Jordanian working class and the oppressive measures adopted against it by King Husayn's regime and its organs, brother An-Naji stressed that the Jordanian authorities are imprisoning hundreds of Jordanian workers, having already dissolved the General Federation of Labor Unions in Jordan and the labor unions and having canceled their regulations. Brother An-Naji also said that the king's regime executed several labor union leaders and that daily arrests are being made among the ranks of the workers and the Jordanian nationalist movement, which oppose the regime's practices against the Palestinian cause and condemn its conspiracy against Syria, the heart of Arab steadfastness.

LIBYAN FOREIGN SECRETARY BRINGS MESSAGE TO AL-ASAD

Arrival Statement

JN041410 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] Damascus--Dr 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, Libyan secretary of foreign affairs, arrived in Damascus today with a message for President Hafiz al-Asad from brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, led those who received 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki. He was also received by the director of the Libyan relations office in Damascus.

In a statement to journalists, At-Turayki said: I am carrying a message from brother Lt Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to President Hafiz al-Asad. I will have a chance to hold discussions with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and with his excellency the president when I deliver the message. Our discussions will deal with many subjects, particularly with the unity that has been approved between the two peoples. A meeting of the two leaderships will take place, God willing, within the next few days on executive steps by which to implement the unity resolutions.

He added: This visit takes place within the framework of that which will soon occur between the two countries. We have become one country. Everything happening both here and there is the focus of interest for the leaders of both fraternal countries. There will be a chance to discuss support for the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, which has proven to be both strong and effective at all times and at all occasions in which the Arab nation was threatened, from its inception up to its unified stand on the Amman summit.

In reply to a question about a tour of Africa, At-Turayki said: We always visit Africa. We are part of it. Libya has always been the first to support Africa's independence and freedom. Libya is a member of the coordination committee for the liberation of Africa. It has participated in Africa's economic and political liberation. There are more than 60 joint companies, corporations, 12 joint banks, and dozens of cultural centers.

On the pan-Arab side, we consider Africa a strategic and natural ally of the Arab nation. Therefore, Arab-African relations are strengthened all the time. We, as Arabs and Africans at the same time, have a role in this struggle.

Al-Asad Reception

JN041655 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] At 1500 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, Libyan secretary of foreign affairs. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and 'Abd as-Salam ibn Khayyal, head of the Libyan relations office in Damascus.

Departure Statement

JN042005 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] At 1500 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, Libyan secretary of foreign affairs. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; and 'Abd as-Salam ibn Khayyal, head of the Libyan relations office in Damascus.

Dr at-Turayki delivered a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from his brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi dealing with the Arab situation and its developments. The two sides then discussed the forthcoming meeting between the leaderships of fraternal Syria and Libya, which will be held soon for discussion of the unity action formula. The two sides also discussed means of strengthening the steadfastness and confrontation front.

This evening Dr 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki left Damascus at the end of his short visit to Syria, during which he delivered a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from brother Libyan Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The Libyan official was seen off at Damascus International Airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; senior foreign ministry officials; and the head of the Libyan relations office in Damascus.

In a statement at Damascus International Airport, Dr at-Turayki said: I delivered a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi dealing with the framework of unity action, latest developments and the international situation. Dr at-Turayki pointed out that his talks in Damascus were positive and constructive and noted that he and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam discussed the development of the situation in the area and the moves by the steadfastness and confrontation front. Dr at-Turayki also said: President Hafiz al-Asad has asked me to convey a message to his brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

In conclusion, Dr at-Turayki said: A meeting between the leaderships of the two fraternal countries, Syria and Libya, will be held soon, to achieve unity.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, earlier held a meeting with Dr 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES 'ARAFAT, PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS

JN042011 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] At 1830 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, and Salah Khalaf Khalil al-Wazir, Muhammad Ghunaym and Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid, Fatah Central Committee members. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

The two sides reviewed the latest developments in the Arab situation; discussed the moves against the Palestinian cause, the Palestinian people's rights, and the PLO's position as the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative; and considered means of confronting and defeating these moves.

ALGERIA

MINISTER DENIES FAILING TO MEET COMMITMENTS

LD050946 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0717 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Excerpt] Kuwait 5 Dec (KUNA)--The Algerian finance minister, M'hamed Yala, today denied that his country had failed to meet financial commitments undertaken at Arab summit conferences in Baghdad and Tunis in 1978 and 1979. He told KUNA that Algeria did not fail in paying its commitments whether with regard to what had been determined within the framework of the joint Arab backing or with regard to its own efforts dictated by the revolutionary solidarity.

HIGH-LEVEL SOVIET DELEGATION TO PAY VISIT

LD042042 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Excerpt] Mohamed Chedli Saadiyah, the official in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee of the FLN Party, this afternoon received the ambassadors of the USSR, the PDRY, Iraq and Mali to Algeria. During his meeting with the Soviet ambassador, a review was made of the relations between the two countries and two parties. It was also agreed that a high-level USSR delegation would visit Algeria at some later date.

OFFICIAL MOZAMBIQUE DELEGATION ARRIVES ON VISIT

LD042056 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] Within the framework of the development of relations of friendship, fraternity and cooperation between Algeria and Mozambique, an important delegation from Mozambique led by Jose Oscar Monteiro, member of the Central Committee of Frelimo and minister of state to the presidency, arrived in Algiers today. The delegation was welcomed at Houari Boumediene international airport by the minister of state for foreign trade and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

LIBYA

LIBERIAN DELEGATION EXPLAINS VISIT POSTPONEMENT

LD050954 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Text] The leader of the revolution has received an important delegation from the Republic of Liberia led by the Liberian minister of foreign affairs, Gabriel Matthews, and including as a member the minister of planning and presidential affairs. The delegation was sent to the Jamahiriyah by the head of state and chairman of the People's Redemption Council in the Republic of Liberia to convey apologies for the postponement of the visit by the Liberian head of state to the Jamahiriyah which had been scheduled to take place on 30 November. The delegation explained to the brother leader the circumstances which Liberia had witnessed during the past days and which were the reason for the postponement. The delegation conveyed the regret and apologies of the Liberian head of state for the postponement of the visit. The delegation handed the brother leader a written message from the Liberian head of state.

MOROCCO

GUNBOAT REPORTEDLY FIRES ON, BOARDS SOVIET TRAWLER

NC050938 Paris AFP in English 0925 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Text] Las Palmas, Canary Islands, 5 Dec (AFP)--Three Soviet seamen have been admitted to hospital here, one of them in a serious condition, following an incident yesterday between a Moroccan gunboat and a Soviet trawler off the Saharan coast, according to reliable sources here. The sources said that Moroccan sailors boarded the trawler Timofei Gormov after it ignored an order to enter a Moroccan port. The Soviet skipper was one of the injured after the Moroccans opened fire, the sources said.

TUNISIA

AL-MAJALLAH INTERVIEWS MZALI ON ARAB RELATIONS

LD011409 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 22-28 Nov 80 pp 43-45

['Abdallah Jafri interview with Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali in Tunis--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Do you see the Syrian-Libyan unity as an attempt to unite a state from the Arab east to one from the Arab Maghreb, or do you look on it as a reaction to the abortive unity attempt between Libya and Tunisia?

[Answer] In principle Tunisia always welcomes any step taken by Arab countries toward unity. But we believe that every unity project must be planned and carried out over reasonable stages so as to ensure its effectiveness, usefulness and durability and to avoid any setbacks.

[Question] What is the state of cooperation between the Maghreb and the eastern Arab countries, and how can it be successfully developed?

[Answer] Cooperation between the two wings of the Arab world is still weak and below its real potential. This has several historical, political and psychological causes. All existing factors call on us to strengthen and consolidate cooperation among us. The development of cooperation between Maghreb countries cannot become serous and far-reaching unless the following conditions are met: First, mutual confidence between Arab people has the right to choose its rulers and the type of society it desires. If such trust is created and if an effective political will, determined to overcome all barriers, suspicions and misunderstanding, is built on that trust, then we can deepen cooperation among ourselves, lay the foundations of a real Arab solidarity, and meet the challenges facing us, which threaten the basic structures of the Arab entity. This was what I tried to achieve and succeeded to a great extent in achieving during my visits to Morocco and Algeria, to which I referred earlier.

[Question] How does Tunisia view the renewed call for a jihad by King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from Mecca on 6 Dhu al-Hijjah [15 October] and Amir Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz's earlier call for a holy jihad, and how far have you contributed to its success and its effectiveness?

[Answer] The call for a jihad which his majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz renewed on 6 Dhu al-Hijjah from Mecca in fact responds to a great need felt by the Arab and Islamic peoples to arouse zeal and stir up efforts to confront contemporary challenges and take our destiny, history and civilization in our own hands. We believe that such a jihad should involve all the fields of our life and particularly the political field, in which we have to meet the Zionist challenge by restoring the usurped Palestinian rights, liberate holy Jerusalem and defend the independence of our peoples against foreign designs.

We in Tunisia are convinced of all the requirements of such a jihad and are endeavoring to create all the conditions that will ensure our contribution to the Arab and Islamic renaissance through advocating unification of ranks, promoting mutual trust, detecting the points of weakness and shortcomints and mapping out a course of action.

[Question] What steps, in your opinion, should the Arab League take now that it has moved to Tunis, and can it be said that in the short time since it moved it has been able to act?

[Answer] The Arab League is at present facing an Arab situation characterized by breaches in the Arab ranks. Differences are tending to weaken solidarity between the Arab countries at this critical juncture in Arab history.

It is therefore the duty of the Arab League at present to strive to purify the Arab atmosphere among the brothers and promote trust, consultation and cooperation in place of suspicions, strife and mistrust. In the recent past the Arab League was able to achieve positive results in this regard which helped to change several European countries' attitudes to the Palestine problem and to influence a tangible change in world opinion on the various aspects of the problem.

[Question] Fighting between Iraq and Iran is continuing. You have made your views on this war known in several press statements. However, we would like to know your views and the type of solution which Tunisia proposes for this war.

[Answer] It is unfortunate that such a war should break out between brothers in religion and culture and that it should go on for such a long time. Several dangers are threatening the Middle East, which must be avoided before the worst happens. The best solution is evidently Islamic mediation.

WESTERN SAHARA

ARMY ATTACKS MOROCCAN FORCES, CLAIMS 67 KILLED

LD050042 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0001 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Text] Units of the Saharan People's Army have launched several attacks against the Moroccan invading forces in various parts of the SDAR and southern Morocco.

A statement issued by the Saharan Information Ministry tonight says that a unit of the Saharan Army fought a 4-hour battle against the Moroccan invading forces,which suffered 67 killed and an equal number wounded. A significant quantity of ammunition and military hardware was either destroyed or seized.

The Saharan fighters occupied some military positions and seized a number of vehicles and arms. Saharan fighter units also attacked the Moroccan royalist forces at Smara, Zak, Rus ar-Rigibil, Rus Mudirigah and Rus al-'Uwuj, killing and wounding a number of Moroccan soldiers.

BRIEFS

SUDANESE AMBASSADOR TO IRAQ--Iraqi foreign minister Sa'dun Hammadi met with the new Sudanese ambassador to Iraq, Jalal Hasan 'Atabani, this morning and received a copy of his credentials. [Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Dec 80 GF]

SUDANESE-ITALIAN AGREEMENT--Khartoum, 28 Nov (SUNA)--An agreement on rescheduling Sudan's debt to the government of Italy was signed here yesterday at the bank of [word indistinct]. Economic Department Undersecretary at the Finance Ministry (Fawzi Wasfi) signed for the Sudan while the Italian ambassador to Khartoum signed for his country. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 1717 GMT 28 Nov 80 LD]

BURG TO HOLD FAREWELL TALK WITH LINOWITZ

TA050842 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 Dec 80 p 11

[Text] Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg left for the United States and South America yesterday.

During his stay in the United States, the interior minister will hold several clarification talks on autonomy. Burg will confer with U.S. representative to the autonomy talks Sol Linowitz, among others, for what has been termed a farewell talk. Interior Ministry Director General Hayim Kubersky is also currently in the United States discussing autonomy issues.

The interior minister will visit several South American countries after his U.S. tour. He will deal with matters pertaining to the Jewish communities there.

MINISTRY OFFICIAL ENCOURAGED BY U.S. TALKS

TA041754 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General David Qimhi, who is currently visiting in the United States, thinks that the Reagan administration will be interested in continuing the Camp David process. Qimhi bases this opinion on many talks he has conducted in the United States. Speaking to our correspondent, Shalom Qital, David Qimhi said he had been encouraged by his talks and he was certain the new administration would show understanding for the need to have a strong and firm Israel.

Regarding the positions of the new chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Charles Percy, the Foreign Ministry director general said that Percy had indeed certain reservations about some aspects of the Israeli Government's policy--such as the settlements--and even had a sympathetic attitude toward Yasir 'Arafat. However, in a meeting with him, Percy explained that he was opposed to a PLO state and, as Qimhi phrased it, we will also be able to work with him.

SHAMIR, GHALI AGREE TO FREEZE AUTONOMY TALKS

TA042013 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir tonight met with French President Valerie Giscard d'Estaing, on the conclusion of his private visit in Paris. Foreign Minister Shamir this morning met with the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Butrus Ghali. The two agreed to freeze the autonomy talks until after Ronald Reagan assumes the office of the U.S. president. Our correspondent in Paris, Yo'av Toqer, reports:

[Begin recording] Mr Shamir arrived at the Elysee Palace immediately following a 1-hour conversation with Butrus Ghali who is now staying in Paris. In this conversation, too, they discussed the European paper that was published in Luxembourg early this week.

[Shamir] We had a constructive and a serious conversation about normalization, about the need to accelerate the autonomy talks and we discussed the situation in the region. The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Butrus Ghali, raised several issues that are still outstanding and we, too, raised some issues that will have to be examined. In the conversation the subject of the European initiative also came up. There are different assessments on our part and on theirs. We think that these resolutions of the Nine do not help peace. The Egyptian position is different. I hope that we will continue the talks soon. [end recording]

SHAMIR VIEWS RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, EUROPE

LD031101 Paris FRANCE-SOIR in French 2 Dec 80 p 7

[Alain Guiney interview with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in Paris--date not given]

[Excerpt] Question: What is the purpose of your visit to France? Do you think you can bend French policy which so frequently opposes your country's positions in the Near East?

Answer: It is important never to lose hope in relations between two countries. We do have many differences of opinion with France on the situation in the Near East and I do not hope to be able to end them but I do hope to reduce them. In my talks with the French foreign minister I raised major regional problems and our bilateral relations. I intend to do likewise during the talks which I will have with many leading French people.

It should be stressed in any case that we agree on the need to have good relations, to exchange ideas, to continue dialogue and to cooperate in all the spheres in which this cooperation is possible, including our economic and cultural relations. If we have a problem with the Common Market it stems from its expansion to include Mediterranean countries. However, we would have liked to have received more support from France in seeking a solution to our problems with the community as a whole.

Question: Is there a direct link between the date chosen for your visit and the Luxembourg summit at which the Near East situation will be examined?

Answer: The date of my private visit to France, during which I am due to speak to Jewish organizations, was fixed a long time in advance but since Jean Francois-Poncet had to go to the Luxembourg meeting it was deemed useful for our talks to take place before his departure. He will therefore be better informed on our stance before that summit. There are reports suggesting that the community countries will not make a new initiative on the Near East until things become clearer, until Reagan's Washington administration specifies its policy. We will see if that is the case. Many things have happened in our region since the last summit in Venice, including the war between Iraq and Iran. So far that has not altered the European leaders' stance, however, judging from the contacts I have had, is making them think.

The PLO's position has also been weakened recently both in the Near East and in European opinion following bloody and absurb attacks. This weaker PLO position should also be reflected in the attitude which the European governments take toward that organization.

Question: Minister, do the differences of opinion within the Arab world which emerged at the Amman summit conference open new possibilities for a political solution, particularly with Jordan?

Answer: First, I would like to tell you that those differences of opinion did not surprise us; many conflicts divide the Arab states. At present there is a fierce war between Iraq and Iran and we cannot rule out the possibility of such a war among the Arab countries themselves. All these conflicts have no relation, or very little relation, to the Palestinian problem.

Europe has opened a so-called Euro-Arab dialogue. However, Egypt alone constitutes almost 50 percent of the Arab world. Now, after the collapse of that world at the Amman conference, how will the Europeans continue that dialogue? As far as we are concerned, we think we should continue negotiations with Egypt on atonomy while closely following events taking place on our borders. We do not think there is an alternative to this process.

PLO STRENGTHENS POSITIONS ALONG JORDANIAN BORDER

TA041245 Jerusalem POST in English 4 Dec 80 pp 1, 2

[By military correspondent Hirsh Goodman]

[Text] The Palestine Liberation Organization has deployed several hundred men from training camps in the Damascus area to the Jordanian border and is readying them for incursions into Jordan.

The men, from the As-Sa'iqah, Fatah and the Democratic Front of Nayif Hawatimah terror groups, have been deployed with their weapons under the command of PLO number-two man Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), adjacent to the two Syrian divisions near Daria.

The decision to move the terrorists to the Jordanian border was taken at a meeting between PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Syrian President Hafiz Asad on November 23. At a second meeting last Sunday, attended by 'Arafat and his deputy Al-Wazir, as well as Syrian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Haum Khaddam, it was decided that Al-Qazir would prepare the PLO troops for incursions into Jordan.

The Syrian president had made it clear to 'Arafat that the PLO's mediation efforts in the Iraq-Iran crisis and its posture of neutrality in the confrontation with Jordan, which has aligned itself with Iraq, would cost the PLO the support of Syria in Lebanon.

'Arafat, for his part, has informed his allies in the anti-Syrian Arab world--Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the Gulf states and Kuwait--of the Syrian ultimatum, thus trying not to break his ties with some of his main sources of financial support.

Tension between the PLO and the Jordanians has risen tremendously over the past two weeks. Four PLO terror units, claimed by the PLO to have been en route to Israel, were captured by the Jordanians in the last week of November, and the Jordanians have raided several refugee camps in the Amman region and villages along the border with Israel, confiscating terrorist arms caches. However, the six PLO offices continue to operate unhindered in Jordan, albeit under intensified scrutiny.

The appointment of Al-Wazir to head the PLO force deployed on the Jordanian border came as a surprise to observers here, who note that he is the official PLO representative to the joint PLO-Jordanian committee for coordinating Palestinian affairs. The appointment, apparently, was intended as a clear message to the Jordanians that earlier understandings were no longer in force, and that the PLO, together with Syria and Libya, considered the king and his army to be "agents of the Zionist."

SENIOR FATAH COMMANDERS KILLED IN IDF OPERATION

TA041751 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] Correspondent Ahron Barne'a has learned from sources in southern Lebanon that the terrorists killed in the IDF operation last night in Lebanon were senior Fatah commanders in the city of Damur.

One of those killed, Muhammad (Shehade) was in charge of the Damur area on behalf of the Fatah. It has also been learned that the military Fatah commander in the Damur area sustained severe injuries.

INTER-AFRICAN SOCIALIST PREPARATORY MEETING OPENS

AB031935 Paris AFP in French 1639 GMT 3 Dec 80

[Excerpt] Dakar, 3 Dec (AFP)--A meeting of the preparatory committee for the founding congress of a future inter-African socialist [organization] was opened in Dakar on Wednesday by Mr Leopold Sedar Senghor, president of the Republic of Senegal and secretary general of the Senegalese Socialist Party.

The committee is to draw up a list of African political parties likely to become members of the future inter-African group in preparation for a founding congress scheduled to take place in Tunis from 26 through 28 February, 1981. The meeting will also draw up a draft charter and internal regulations for the proposed organization.

The committee comprises representatives from the Socialist Party of Senegal, the Labor Party of Mauritius, the Destourian Socialist Party of Tunisia, the Istiqlal and the Socialist Union of Popular Forces of Morocco and the Arab Socialist Union of Sudan.

In his opening address, President Senghor recalled that the proposed socialist inter-African [organization], of which he and Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba are the forerunners, will bring together African parties which profess democratic socialism.

President Senghor then went on to enumerate the major aims of the socialist inter-African: to strengthen solidarity among member parties, to work toward the coordination of their policies, to facilitate the exchange of experiences, to promote relations among their youth, women and workers' organizations, to encourage active support for all national liberation movements, to consolidate African unity and inter-African and international cooperation.

Further Report

AB041801 Paris AFP in French 1443 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] Dakar, 4 Dec (AFP)--Seven political parties which are members of the preparatory committee of the founding congress of the inter-African socialist [organization] have, in a resolution adopted at the end of their meeting in Dakar, condemned the invasion of Chad by Libya and called for the immediate withdrawal of foreign troops in that country.

The seven parties--the Istiqlal and the Socialist Union of Popular Forces of Morocco, the Mauritian Social-Democratic Party, the Progressive People's Party of Gambia, the Destourian Socialist Party of Tunisia, the Socialist Party of Senegal and the Arab Socialist Union of Sudan--also adopted the draft agenda of the founding congress of the socialist inter-African, scheduled to take place in Tunis from 26 through 28 February, 1981, as well as the list of parties likely to become members of the organization.

According to the final communique, Presidents Leopold Sedar Senghor of Senegal and Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia, promoters of this project, were entrusted with the task of extending the invitations.

In a press conference, members of the committee specified that the proposed socialist inter-African will bring together parties which profess democratic socialism, whether they are in power or not. The main organs will be a general council, comprising delegates of member parties; the Executive Bureau, comprising a president and three vice presidents, and the Executive Secretariat.

They emphasized that the proposed socialist inter-African was not directed against any organization or any country; but it will defend democracy and fundamental freedoms everywhere. Members of the committee also indicated that the Tunis congress will examine the draft charter and internal regulations, and elect the organization's Executive Bureau.

Among the personalities who took part in the conference were Mr Moustapha Niasse, foreign minister and political secretary of the Socialist Party of Senegal; Mr M'Hamed Boucetta, foreign minister and secretary general of the Istiqlal of Morocco; Mr Mongi Kooli, minister attached to the prime minister and political director of the Destourian Party; Mr Lamin Saho, attorney general and representative of the Progressive People's Party of Gambia; as well as Mr Habib Thiam, external relations secretary of the Socialist Party of Senegal and Mr Ahmed Alaoui, member of the Political Bureau of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces of Morocco.

VIEIRA SEES LUANDA SUMMIT AS INTERFERENCE

AB0021726 Paris AFP in French 1435 GMT 2 Dec 80

[Text] Bissau, 2 Dec (AFP)--Guinea-Bissau has reacted strongly against the meeting in Luanda on Tuesday of the heads of state of the African Portuguese-speaking countries (Angola, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe) which it has not been invited to attend and which is expected to examine the situation in Guinea-Bissau following the coup d'etat in that country on 14 November. In a message to Mr Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of Angola, Gen Joao Bernardo Vieira, president of the Revolutionary Council of Cape Verde, declared that any measures relating to Guinea-Bissau decided during the Luanda meeting without our participation will be considered interference in the internal affairs of our country and may cause a deterioration within the PAIGC [African Independence Party of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde. We allow no one to speak on behalf of Guinea-Bissau without the authorization of the Revolutionary Council, General Vieira points out.

The chairman of the Revolutionary Council of Guinea-Bissau also recalls that he sent a message to Mr Aristides Pereira, president of the Republic of Cape Verde and secretary general of the PAIGC (the ruling party in both Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau). In the message he expressed his faithfulness to the principles of the PAIGC. General Vieira adds that one of the objectives of the 14 November coup was to remove Mr Luis Cabral (the former head of state) because of his policy, which led the country into ruin and poverty. We regret, he goes on, that Comrade Aristides Pereira did not take the initiative of holding an urgent meeting of the PAIGC directorate in order to examine and discuss the situation following the event which he has condemned without any justification.

Within the framework of the PAIGC, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau once again reaffirms its determination to continue to develop the brotherly ties existing between us since the struggle against Portuguese colonial domination, the message says in conclusion. In the wake of the coup d'etat in Bissau, Angola sent a delegation to Praia and a message to the Cape Verdian head of state. In the message he expressed his preoccupation over the risk of disruption within the PAIGC .

ETHIOPIA

MENGISTU STATEMENTS ON PROGRESS OF NATION

LD041850 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 4 Dec 80 EA

[Text] Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam said that our revolutionary army has changed the situation of secession in northern Ethiopia and enabled the unity of the motherland and the revolution of the broad masses to reach absolute inviolability, and that it was at present thwarting Somali troops infiltrated into Ethiopia in an attempt to materialize Somalia's futile desire of expansion. Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam said this last night at the Ethiopian Embassy when he received Ethiopians living in the Republic of Kenya and briefed them on the victories scored by the revolution and the level of progress it has reached.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu said in his briefing that our revolutionary army, which, being drawn from various revolution-loving social strata and the working class, had risen up without hesitation to make the necessary sacrifice, extricated Ethiopia from the situation, whereby it was said: "Ethiopia is finished, it is dismembered," and fulfilled the necessary conditions to enable it to reach its present dependable stage.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu said that Ethiopians living in the Republic of Kenya who loved their country were following the radical change taking place in Ethiopia and knew a lot about it. He also explained how happy, beneficial and proud of their country the Ethiopian broad masses now were. Those masses were jealous and ready to die for their independence: they were heroes and had a magnificent history.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu assured the Ethiopians that for this reason, Ethiopian unity, without doubt, would pass from generation to generation.

ELF SPOKESMAN DOUBTS GOVERNMENT, SOVIET MOTIVES

LD011527 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Nov 80 p 3

[Interview given to ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by Eritrean Liberation Front Popular Liberation Forces Representative in London Muhammad 'Uthman Sayigh; date not given]

[Excerpt] London--[Question] What are your comments on the assassination of 'Uthman Hasan 'Ajib and 'Abd al-Qadir Jilani and what is its impact?

[Answer] As Popular Liberation Forces, we are against the method of assassination, and we denounce the perpetrator of this incident. We hope that the Sudanese authorities will succeed in arresting the perpetrator in order to punish him. Unless the results of the current investigations prove otherwise, we believe that the perpetrators are quarters which are hostile to the Eritrean revolution and which seek to harm Eritrean-Sudanese relations at a time when Sudanese President Field Marshal Ja'far Muhammad Numayri is going to Ethiopia on an official visit. The Eritrean issue is one of the principal objectives of this visit. Fraternal Sudan is using its good offices to bring about unconditional negotiations between the Eritrean revolution and the Ethiopian Government.

It is worth noting that this assassination incident is the first of its kind, since no Eritrean has been assassinated for political reasons outside Eritrea. We do not believe that Sudan's attitude to the Eritrean revolution will be affected by this incident, because Sudan is well aware that the Eritrean revolution, in all its groups, respects Sudanese security and has done nothing in violation of Sudan's security.

[Question] Do you expect any practical step toward a peaceful settlement of the Eritrean issue as a result of President Numayri's visit to Ethiopia?

[Answer] Since 1974--Since the coup which toppled former Emperor Haile Selasse--Sudan has proposed a peaceful solution to the Eritrean issue at Ethiopia's request. Eritrean-Ethiopian negotiations were about to start by the end of 1975, after the signing of the unity agreement between our organization (the Popular Liberation Forces) and the Revolutionary Council. This agreement was not achieved because a section of the Popular Liberation Forces led by (Asiyasi Afurqi) dissented and formed a new organization under the name of the Popular Front, which raised the slogan of unity of ideology (Marxist) before the unity of rifles. The main obstacle to the negotiations has been the lack of unity among the Eritrean groups, even since Ethiopia's recent proposals to hold unconditional negotiations for self-government and under UN supervision. These are factors that are considered in the interest of the just Eritrean cause, even though they do not meet the demands of the Eritrean people. We do not expect quick negotiations because disagreements among the three Eritrean organizations continue to exist. However, an agreement has been reached between the Revolutionary Council and the Popular Liberation Forces to discuss unity. This is a positive factor, and we hope to achieve good results in this direction in the next few weeks. This will probably open the door for the Popular Front to join the unity operation later and thus enable us to start negotiations with Ethiopia. Despite Ethiopia's insistence on Sudan's helping in resolving the Eritrean issue peacefully, there are signs which make us doubt the sincerity of Ethiopian intentions and view the Ethiopian attempts as mere tactics to win over Sudan against the Eritrean revolution. We have noticed that, while calling for negotiations, Ethiopia is adopting a colonialist and imperialist method toward Eritrea by stepping up Ethiopian emigration to the Eritrean towns under its control. Ethiopians now constitute 40 percent of the population of Asmara and 80 percent in the ports of Massawa and Assab. Ethiopia is also forcing Eritrean citizens to flee by terrorizing them through mass murder and by harrassing them. If one seeks a political solution one does not resort to emptying a country of its people. We also find that, while seeking a peaceful solution, Ethiopia is intensifying military preparations for its seventh offensive. On 11 November, Ethiopia landed two brigades in (Mersa Taclai), which is close to the Sudanese border, with the help of Soviet ships and landing craft. The Ethiopian forces had not been able to reach this area overland because the roads are under the control of the Eritrean revolution. The purpose of these forces is to close the Eritrean-Sudanese border. This could cause direct friction with Sudanese forces.

[Question] How true are the reports about the presence of Soviet bases on the Eritrean island of Dahlac, and what effect does this have on Sudanese-Ethiopian relations?

[Answer] In 1977, the Soviets began expanding the Dahlac Kebir port, built by the Italians during World War II and was later expanded by the Israelis during the last emperor's regime as a base for their fishing boats. The Soviets have also built an airport, a fuel dump and a water reservoir on the island. The Soviet Union is also expanding the ports of Mussawa and Assab with a view to utilizing them militarily. The Soviet Union entered Ethiopia to remain there and turn it into a springboard for its expansionist plans in neighboring countries, particularly Sudan. There are not about 20 ideological schools in Ethiopia, all of which are supervised by Soviet experts. Therefore, the contention that helping Ethiopia to resolve its military problems with Eritrea and Somalia so that it will expel the Soviets and adopt a neutral position in its foreign policy is proved wrong by realities. It is beneficial for the states in the area to behave on the basis of an understanding of the reality of Soviet and Ethiopian domestic and foreign policies.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

PRESIDENT DACKO RECEIVES CHADIAN MINISTER

AB041141 Bangui Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 3 Dec 80

[Text] Within the framework of his activities, the president of the republic, Mr David Dacko, received in audience the Chadian minister of information, Mr Boukar Nanasbaye, this afternoon at 1500. Mr Nanasbaye, who has been in our capital since yesterday, is bearer of a message from President Goukouni Oueddei, president of the Transitional National Union Government in Chad, to his CAR counterpart, Mr David Dacko. After the audience, the Chadian information minister, Mr Nanasbaye, answered questions put to him by our reporter, (Check de Mariton):

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Minister, you have just been received by the president of the republic. What were the topics of the discussions?

[Answer] The purpose of my mission is to deliver a message from President Goukouni to the president of the Central African Republic. We did not discuss anything. I simply delivered the message to him.

[Question] Mr Minister, [words indistinct] when do you think peace will return to Chad?

[Answer] The Chadian tragedy is disturbing all Chad's neighbors--Cameroon, Nigeria and the Central African Republic--who are burdened with refugees. The refugees, who do not know which way to turn, have established themselves in these countries. This tragedy is a great worry for the Chadian Government and we are trying our best to reestablish peace as soon as possible in Chad so that these Chadians could return to their homes.

[Question] Mr Minister, what do you think about the agreement reached last week in Lome in the absence of Hissein Habre and how was this agreement received in Chad?

[Answer] This agreement was very well received in Chad. As I have just said, the people are not after anything other than the restoration of peace so that they can return to their homes. This agreement is in conformity with the Lagos agreement and the freedom resolution and, consequently, it is in accordance with what we want in Chad.

If Mr Habre has refused to sign it, it is simply because this agreement contains certain constraints, especially the one stipulating that anyone who henceforth violates the cease-fire agreement could be penalized by Africa. Now, everyone knows it is Mr Habre who has always broken the cease-fire; he is always the one who (?disobeys) and as this agreement does not suit him, one can understand his refusal to sign it. Whatever anyone may say afterward is all bunkum! It is an agreement which can greatly help solve the Chadian problem and enable the Chadian people to find their bearings.

[Question] Mr Minister, what do you think about the Libyan intervention in Chad? Further, some newspapers have reported atrocities committed by the Libyan soldiers. Is this true?

[Answer] Yes, there has been too much talk of Libyan intervention in Chad. [Words indistinct] do the people talking about Libyan intervention want to take the place of the Chadians? I do not think there is any Libyan intervention. I am from Chad. I am from the interior of the country.

It is true that Libya is helping the Chadian Government through the supply of military equipment and logistical means such as means of transportation. But Libya is not intervening directly in the Chadian conflict. We asked for this assistance within the framework of Chadian sovereignty. Despite everything, we are free to ask for the assistance of anyone to crush a rebellion. When there is rebellion in a country, it is normal that that country's government should crush it. I do not think any African head of state would allow anyone to declare a rebellion in his country. Such a rebellion would be automatically (?crushed). That is what we are trying to do in Chad. But some people view the Chadian situation in a different way. They want to place Mr Hissein Habre on the same level as the government. We wonder why. One would have the impression that the war in Chad is between two different countries whereas it is a civil war, an internal conflict [words indistinct]. [end recording]

CHAD

NDJAMENA SITUATION BLOCKED DESPITE CEASE-FIRE

AB050817 Paris AFP in English 0703 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Excerpts] Ndjamena, 5 Dec (AFP)--Despite last week's cease-fire, the situation here remained blocked both diplomatically and militarily, as the civil war that has split the Chadian capital entered its 9th month.

But the cease-fire--negotiated by an Organization of African Unity (OAU) subcommittee and signed last week in Togo by Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei--remained the subject of much comment both in Mr Goukouni's camp and that of dissident former Defense Minister Hissein Habre, who spurned the signing.

Mr Habre, who heads the Armed Forces of the North (FAN), has said he is ready at any time to undertake negotiations to end the Chadian conflict. But he has posed two conditions that observers say Mr Goukouni is unlikely to accept: the condemnation by the OAU subcommittee of the massive intervention of Libyan troops and of the occupation of the oasis of Aouzou, and the removal of Benin as a member country of the subcommittee. Libyan forces have supported President Goukouni's troops, and Mr Habre has accused Benin of complicity with Libyan leader Mu'ammar Qadhdhafi.

Fighting has continued in the Chadian capital in recent days, but restrictions on journalists' movements in zones controlled by both sides have made it difficult to evaluate the intensity of the combat. But it appears that, against all expectations, no major attack has been launched since the meeting in Lome last week. The fighting, most of which appears to take place early in the morning or at sunset, touched off several large fires early in the week.

Mr Habre's forces continue to control three-fourths of the city, and neither side appears to have attempted any serious offensive. Several heavy helicopters were seen yesterday moving between the northwest suburb of Ndjamena where the government command post is located, and the south of the country.

Meanwhile, according to FAN, the Libyan presence has intensified, particularly in Mongo about 450 kms (280 miles) east of here. Reliable sources said that Libyan C-130 transport planes recently unloaded both Libyan soldiers and heavy materiel in Mongo. And Mr Goukouni's faction on Wednesday for the first time denounced what it said was Sudanese troops fighting alongside the FAN forces. If the Sudanese presence is confirmed, observers say, it would confirm the risk of internationalization of a conflict which, though once internal, has begun to show signs of spilling across Chad's borders.

BENIN

UN DELEGATION COMMUNIQUE STATES POSITION ON CHAD

AB031213 Paris AFP in French 1042 GMT 3 Dec 80

[Text] United Nations, New York, 2 Dec (AFP)--According to a communique issued by the Beninese delegation at the United Nations the People's Republic of Benin will only send troops to Chad within the framework of the OAU peace-keeping force.

This communique, which was issued on Tuesday, is aimed at replying to the libellous and persistent campaign by one of the Chadian factions aimed at accusing the People's Republic of Benin of partiality or collaboration with the Libyans in the painful conflict which continues to bleed the center of the African continent.

The communique adds that the Benin Republic considers that the scrupulous respect of the Lagos agreement of 21 August 1979 signed by the 11 Chadian political factions and the resolutions passed at the Freetown OAU summit remain the only legal basis for any solution aimed at restoring peace to Chad.

This agreement, the document asserts, constitutes the legitimate basis for the existence of the GUNT [Transitional National Union Government] and legalizes the expediting of neutral peace-keeping forces to Chad, forces which must be composed of Beninese, Congolese and Guinean troops.

The Beninese communique also considers that the OAU ad hoc committee's work on Chad should be considered as negotiations for a cease-fire to enable the application of the Lagos accord and not as a renegotiation of that accord.

All African countries must support the GUNT, the only legal authority in Chad. Any contestation of the authority of the GUNT constitutes rebellion, the communique asserts. The troops of the OAU peace-keeping force should come from Benin, Congo and Guinea and they must be financed by the OAU and placed under its authority, the Beninese text adds.

Mr Hissein Habre, leader of the Chadian Northern Armed Forces (FAN), who has not yet signed the cease-fire which comes into force on 15 December in Chad, recently condemned Benin, member of the OAU ad hoc committee on Chad and accused it of being an Al-Qadhdhafi agent.

LIBERIA

MINISTER SEES IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH ECOWAS

AB281058 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 28 Nov 80

[Text] Planning and Economic Affairs Minister Dr Togba Nah Tipoteh disclosed in Monrovia today that the initial misconception which apparently strained Liberia's mutual relations with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), after the 12 April coup, has now been wiped out. He said Liberia has now begun to play its functional role in the West African body as prescribed by its charter. Dr Tipoteh noted that the invitation which was extended to the head of state, Master-Sergeant Doe, by the Guinea president, Ahmed Sekou Toure, also chairman of the Niger River Basin Commission to attend the just ended meeting of the organization was an indication that Liberia's relations with ECOWAS had been improved.

Dr Tipoteh was speaking in a press interview following his recent visit to Guinea where he headed a 3-man Liberian delegation to the celebration marking the 10th anniversary of the abortive invasion of Guinea and the summit meeting of the Niger River Basin Commission. He said the Liberian delegation was overwhelmingly received and accorded official courtesy at both the celebration and the summit meeting.

UPPER VOLTA

MILITARY COMMITTEE GIVES NO INDICATION OF POLICIES

AB032007 Paris AFP in Eng' .sh 1538 GMT 3 Dec 80

[By Francois Marie Prause]

[Excerpts] Ouagadougou, 3 Dec (AFP)--A week has gone by since the military coup d'etat in Upper Volta without the new ruling Military Committee for National Recovery having given any indication of its policies.

Except for an address by the committee's head, former Foreign Minister Saye Zerbo, there has been no statement of economic or political intentions from the new rulers of this West African state, and no new government has been named.

The country today seemed completely calm. Messages of support for the new regime have reportedly flooded into the capital and numerous local support committees been set up.

Informed circles here agree that the 25 November coup against President Sangoule Lamizana and the ruling Voltan Democratic Party has on the whole been well received by the opposition parties. The opposition parties had been continually eating away at the government's majority in the National Assembly. The coup has also been endorsed by the country's Catholic church.

Informed sources pointed out however that most members of the military committee, particularly top-level officers, took part in one way or another in managing the affairs of the country during a period of military rule from 1974 to 1978. It is therefore expected that the regime will move toward a reinforcement of powers, with perhaps a certain authoritarianism, and toward the efficiency so lacking under the regime of General Lamizana. The options open to the new rulers are (?seen as being) rather limited, with the main priority of the former government in the economic field--development of the rural sector--remaining valid. [sentence indistinct]

The rulers' foreign policy is expected to put a greater emphasis on patriotism, and also lead to the abandonment of moves by General Lamizana which threatened the secular nature of the state. The sources believed that undertakings by the ousted president to Islamic states influenced by the authorities in, among others, Libya, would now lose their significance.

Other orientations, such as nonalignment, membership of regional and continental organizations and traditional friendly ties with other countries will remain unchanged, the sources said.

But two important issues still remain unanswered for the moment: the new regime's relations with the trade unions and the country's future political evolution.

Informed sources stressed the fact that the governmental authorities and organized labor have been in open opposition to each other in Upper Volta since independence from France in 1960. Over that period, trade union power has, with last week's coup, led to the downfall of a parliamentary government here three times. Immediately on assuming power the new military committee made a gesture of conciliation to the powerful teachers union, whose 53-day strike preceded the coup, by undertaking to pay the strikers (?wages). This the ousted government had refused to do.

But it remains to be seen how the new authorities, who have already announced freedom for organized labor as well as the press, will manage their relations with Upper Volta's politicized trade unions.

So far as politics is concerned, informed sources agree that no return to parliamentary rule is to be expected for the [words indistinct] and that whatever happens, any new system will not be like the old one.

SOUTH AFRICA

SPOKESMAN DENIES MUGABE ALLEGATION ABOUT TROOPS

LD042142 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] Zimbabwe's prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, alleges that there are more than 5,000 troops from Zimbabwe in the Transvaal. He alleges that they were recruited by South Africa to aabotage and subvert Zimbabwe's independence.

Speaking at a banquet in honor of President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Mr Mugabe said knowledge of the recruits made what he called hypocritical nonsense of the appeal by the South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, for a nonaggression pact between South Africa and its black-ruled neighbors.

Mr Mugabe said that if South-West Africa-Nambia could be led to attain what he called genuine independence, then Africa would be left with only South Africa as its main concern.

Reacting in Pretoria to Mr Mugabe's statement, a spokesman for the South African Defense Force said his allegations had been denied by members of the South African Government and the defense force so often that one could hardly be expected to do it again. The spokesman said allegations of this sort were apparently made with some other purpose in mind.

JOHANNESBURG CITES UNITA ON CAPTURE OF RUSSIANS

LD042236 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] The Angolan resistance movement, UNITA, has announced that it has captured two Russian airmen and has sent them to what UNITA describes as a friendly country for security reasons. In a statement released in Paris, UNITA says the airmen's Antonov-26 transport aircraft was shot down in the Caundo-Cubango Province on 23 November. UNITA says the Soviet Union has been playing a more open and more direct role in Angolan affairs recently because Cuban and East German pilots are becoming increasingly reluctant to fly combat missions. UNITA says this is because of the effectiveness of its antiaircraft units, which shot down three Russian Antonov aircraft and five helicopters during November.

ZAMBIA

KAUNDA ANNOUNCES MINISTERIAL CHANGES 4 DEC

LD041554 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 4 Dec 80 CA

[Text] Changes and appointments in the party and government have been announced by President Kaunda today. Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Wilson Chakulya becomes the minister of defense, while Minister of Education Professor Lameck Goma takes over from him. Making the announcement at a State House press conference, Dr Kaunda announced the appointment of Dr (Henry Luwelo) from Freedom House as the minister of education. Former Minister of Legal Affairs Mr Frederick Chomba moves to home affairs in the same capacity while Minister of State for Legal Affairs and Solicitor General Mr Gibson Chigaga becomes the new minister and attorney general.

The minister of home affairs, Mr Wilted Phiri, moves to State House as special political assistant to the president. Mr Phiri replaces Mr Marck China, who retired in June this year.

Announcing the changes at the Ministry of Labor and Social Services, Dr Kaunda said Mr Joshua Lumina moves to the Development Commission for development planning in the same capacity. Mr Lumina takes over from Mr Unia Mwila, who was appointed minister of agriculture and water development after the resignation of Mr Alexander Chikwanda.

President Kaunda also announced the appointment of Eastern Province Political Secretary Mr Justin Chinba as the minister of Labor and social services.

Under the office of the prime minister Dr Kaunda appointed Mr Shadreck Soko, Copperbelt Central Committee member, to head the Department of Participatory Democracy and he will be assisted by Mr (George Chembe). Former Southern Province Central Committee Member Mr Stephone Sikombe, who becomes political secretary at Freedom House, was suspended from the Central Committee and convicted in court, after which he was expelled. On the Copperbelt, Provincial Political Secretary Mr Cox Sikumba moves to Freedom House, while Mrs (Esther Banda) has been transferred to the Copperbelt.

The newly elected member of the Central Committee, Mr (Joseph Mutale), goes to Northern Province, while Mr Alex Shapi moves to the Copperbelt in the same capacity. In the Eastern Province, Mr (Samson Mukanda), Central Province political secretary, moves to the province to take over from Mr Justin Chimba.

The changes will be effective from midnight on Sunday, 7th December.

Further Report

LD051032 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 Dec 80 CA

[Text] President Kaunda today announced changes in the party and its government administration aimed at strengthening the leadership machinery. He has transferred three Central Committee members, five Cabinet ministers and appointed three new ministers. Dr Kaunda also transferred some permanent and provincial political secretaries and promoted some district governors. He told a press conference held at State House that the new changes would take effect at midnight on Sunday.

Outspoken Copperbelt Province Central Committee member Mr Shadreck Soko moves to Lusaka in the same capacity but will (?now head the industrial) participatory democracy, a department falling under the prime minister's office. Mr Stephen Sikombe, former Southern Province member of the Central Committee, has been brought back into the fold as a political secretary at Freedom House. Dr Kaunda said the Central Committee had pardoned Mr Sikombe, who was convicted in court and later dismissed.

Other notable changes include the appointment of Mr Justin Chimba, until now Eastern Provincial political secretary, as the new minister for labor and social services. He takes over from Mr Joshua Lumina, who now moves to the National Commission for Development Planning in the same capacity.

Commenting on the revelations of a parliamentary committee about the Kanyama disaster scandal, President Kaunda said the police and the party disciplinary committee will look into the allegations. The parliamentary public accounts committee, headed by Matero MP Mr Francis Nkhoma, has revealed that a Cabinet minister, a permanent secretary, a political secretary, a district governor and a district secretary corruptly bought most of the items donated to disaster victims at giveaway prices. That was in 1978. The president described the revelations as very serious cases of indiscipline and called on the police to quickly institute investigations and prosecute the culprits found out.

Asked as to why he did not suspend Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Services Mr John Banda for allegedly causing death by dangerous driving, which is a criminal offense, Dr Kaunda said he was advised against doing so.

He said his actions hinged on consultations, and in this case his legal advisers had told him that there was no need for a suspension. This could depend on the outcome of court proceedings which are currently going on.

At the same conference Dr Kaunda defended relations between Zambia and Zimbabwe, describing them as very friendly. He said Zimbabwe under Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's leadership was not opposed to Zambia but that it was a friendly country with a friendly government. Dr Kaunda told a questioner, who wanted to know whether Zimbabwe was treating Tanzania and Mozambique as closer friends than Zambia, that Zimbabwe's relations with other countries should not be judged from the sentiments of a few individuals. The president said he had not heard anything from the Zimbabwean Government suggesting that they were against Zambia.

KAUNDA PRAISES SOVIET AID, BILATERAL RELATIONS

LD011436 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 30 Dec 80 CA

[Text] President Kaunda declared in Lusaka today that the ever-increasing assistance the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic continues to render to Zambia is an indication of the firm relationship the two countries continue to enjoy. Dr Kaunda said the continued cooperation between Zambia and the USSR in all five areas of human endeavor was a clear demonstration of understanding between the two countries. The president was speaking before holding talks with a nine-man USSR economic delegation at State House. He explained that both countries were driving out forces of evil in their midst. Dr Kaunda told the Soviet delegation that although Zambia has great agriculture potential but as a country which has emerged from colonial rule it needed support to help it develop this potential. [as heard]

In reply leader of the delegation Comrade Karl Gorev, who is also economic councellor at the Soviet Embassy in Lusaka, said his country had great respect for Zambia's plans to develop her agriculture potential. Comrade Gorev assured the president that his country would do everything possible to help in the recently announced 1-year operation food program.

MOZAMBIQUE

RESOLUTION ASSESSES MACHEL'S VISIT TO USSR

LD041616 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 4 Dec 80 EA

[Text] The party political Central Committee, the Permanent Commission of the People's Assembly and the Council of Ministers today issued a joint resolution recognizing the significance and results of the recent visit made by President Samora Machel to the USSR. This important document states that the visit and the discussions that took place attained qualitative fraternal results between the peoples, parties and states of Mozambique and the USSR. The document also said that the Order of Peoples Friendship presented to President Samora Machel expressed the appreciation and admiration which the USSR has for the Mozambique people and for the supreme leader. The joint resolution noted the great reception which our delegation had in the USSR and expressed the profound feeling of friendship and fraternity shown toward the Mozambique people.

At a joint session, the three organs of the party and state studied the contents of the cooperation agreement between the Frelimo Party and the CPSU and said that this constituted an important step forwarded for Mozambique-Soviet relations. The document added that it appreciated the development of economic cooperation, cultural, scientific, commercial and bilateral relations at all levels.